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# BACKING OVER CCTV PETITION

Report by Megan Archer

**HUNDREDS** of worried residents have backed an online petition in an attempt to put a stop to anti-social behaviour and the illegal use of motor-cycles at a popular park.

An online campaign to lobby Sandwell Council into installing CCTV at Britannia Park in Rowley Regis has nearly met its 500-signature target less than one week after being launched.

Rowley and Blackheath residents rallied together to produce nearly 300 signatures during the first two days of the petition being available for people to add their names.

And as of Monday evening, the total of people to have got involved in the campaign was fewer than 20 signatures away from its 500 names target.

## Crimes

Started by Scott – who only uses his first name – under the online name of 80twentyUK, the petition reads: "Recently there has been a severe increase in anti-social behaviour and illegal use of motorcycles in Britannia Park.

"In the past the park has not been free from more serious crimes such as serious assaults and sexual assaults. I hope to raise enough support for the council to consider installing CCTV in the park as an initiative to increase the safety of families and deter the minority."

If the petition reaches its target of 500 signatures, Scott has said he will be taking it to his local councillor.

Showing her support, local resident Korraine Fenn said: "I'm sick of the youth being abusive and intimidating, the scramblers that have no regard for anyone. I don't even like taking my five-year-old over there or my dogs."

Fellow resident Sabrina Dowling added: "I'm a local resident and worried that our quiet road is being hit by vandalism. I also walk my dog through the park so it would be nice to feel protected."

Just next door, Dudley Council is introducing a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in a bid to put an end to motorbikes and quad bikes being driven irresponsibly on green spaces in the borough.

It will give police and local authority officers more powers to tackle the growing problem as well as fine those caught £100 on the spot.

Visit [change.org/p/sandwell-council-install-cctv-in-britannia-park-rowley/c/739880875](http://change.org/p/sandwell-council-install-cctv-in-britannia-park-rowley/c/739880875) to sign the petition.

## PERMANENT WREATH HONOURS FALLEN HEROES



John Crabtree OBE, Lord Lieutenant of the West Midlands and the Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Alan Taylor, lay the wreath



Respect – Brian Lee and John Dean

A PERMANENT steel wreath was laid in Woodsetton to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War and the re-dedication of a war memorial.

The Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Alan Taylor, Lord Lieutenant of the West Midlands John Crabtree OBE, Captain Andy Peters and the Army Reserves from Dudley, Dudley Sea Cadets, and Royal Air Force Air Cadets were all on hand to pay tribute at Woodsetton War Me-

morial, on the corner of Sedgley Road and Parkes Hall Road, on Sunday.

Royal British Legion representatives attended, along with members of St John Ambulance, the West Midlands Fire Service and pupils from Dudley College's public service department.

Black Country Brass Band played as the wreath, made by Edward Cartwright, was laid. Labour councillors for Upper Gornal and Woodsetton, Keiran

Casey and Adam Aston, helped to raise money for the wreath and organised the service.

The Woodsetton War Memorial, originally located at Mount Tabor Methodist Church, was moved in 2016 to save it from falling into disrepair.

Councillor Casey said the event was "important" to pay tribute to those who died. He added: "We raised over £30,000 to get it moved and now we can hold services there."

## CRISIS

### Troubled firm G4S faces battle to keep control of prisons

UNDER-FIRE security firm G4S faces a battle to hang on to its other prisons after losing control of the troubled HMP Birmingham.

The Winson Green jail has been taken into government control after a damning inspection.

Now, MP Emma Reynolds is questioning whether HMP Oakwood, near Wolverhampton, which houses more than 2,000 inmates, should also be taken back by the Ministry of Justice.

G4S was stripped of control of HMP Birmingham following rising violence and widespread drug abuse. Prisons minister Rory Stewart said "drastic action" was needed to rescue HMP Birmingham.

Warley MP John Spellar said: "It is absolutely the right decision. Clearly there has been a serious failure in senior management."

The Government has taken over HMP Birmingham for at least six months and said it would only hand back control when it was confident G4S was capable of running it.

But Labour MP for Wolverhampton North East, Emma Reynolds said: "We have to question G4S' capability to manage their prisons, including Oakwood."

The contractor insists it will be business as usual at the Featherstone jail and the loss of HMP Birmingham would have no impact.

● Crisis – Page 2

## POLICE

### Alert to shoppers on theft of purses

POLICE are urging shoppers in Halesowen to keep an eye on their belongings following a spate of purse thefts.

Officers tweeted that visitors to the Cornbow Shopping Centre had recently had purses stolen from handbags.

The post read: "Be cautious of your belongings and to zip up/secure your purse/handbag whilst shopping."

## INSIDE

### Final class for keep-fit Jean



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# Zoo rewarded after visitor reviews



Zoo director Derek Grove with the award

KEEPERS at Dudley Zoo are roaring with joy after the park was awarded a certificate in recognition of excellent feedback from visitors. Director Derek Grove said receiving the Trip Advisor 2018 Certificate of Excellence was a 'great boost'.

He thanked visitors for their positive comments about the 40-acre attraction.

The accolade, which has since been framed and put up near the visitor entrance, reflects consistent high ratings left about the zoo and

castle on the Trip Advisor travel website. Derek said: "We're always delighted to hear visitors have enjoyed their experience at the zoo and that our continued investment in new enclosures, new species and improved facilities is valued."

## Beach

"This year we've had new play equipment installed, we've refurbished our toilet facilities and our new beach has been especially popular, with seating areas giving parents some chill-out time while

youngsters enjoy playing in the sand." He added: "Our latest enclosures have great indoor and outdoor viewing areas which is wonderful for both our animals and visitors."

"Many of our animals, in particular our primates and tigers, look forward to seeing our visitors as much as our visitors enjoy seeing them."

Dudley Zoo boasts a 1,600 strong exotic animal collection, and visitors can also take a tour around the 11th Century Dudley Castle also on site.

# Prison slipping into state of crisis, claim

THE Ministry of Justice has been accused of failing to stop the G4S-run HMP Birmingham 'slipping into crisis'.

Chief Inspector of Prisons Peter Clarke said 'somebody must have been asleep at the wheel' after publishing a damning report on the prison.

He said conditions had deteriorated dramatically and the HM Prison and Probation Service had now taken control from G4S. His report, from an inspection at the start of this month, uncovered an 'appalling' squalor and high levels of violence.

He said since the last inspection 18 months ago standards had dropped and called for improvements had not been made. "The inertia that seems to have gripped both those monitoring the contract and delivering it on the ground has led to one of Britain's leading jails slipping into a state of crisis," he said.

## Decency

Mr Clarke added: "It cannot be the case that the only time urgent action is taken to restore decency in a prison is when an inspection report is published. Surely somebody must have been asleep at the wheel."

Prisons Minister Rory Stewart said: "What we have seen at Birmingham is unacceptable and it has become clear that drastic action is required to bring about the improvements we require."

HM Prison and Probation Service has taken over its running for an initial six-month period, a move welcomed by G4S, which had run the jail since 2011.

A new governor has taken charge and an initial 30 extra officers are to be deployed. The jail's capacity is being reduced by 300. At the end of July it had a 1,269 population.

The report said staff had become 'worn down' by chronic staffing shortages and had 'gradually relinquished authority' to the prisoners.

Police & Crime Commissioner David Jamieson, said: "For too long it has been overcrowded and not operating as it should."

## 50 years just flue by, says boss



Managing director Richard Andrews and technical director Kate Birt celebrate Midtherm's 50th anniversary

A DUDLEY business has marked its 50th anniversary.

Midtherm Flue Systems Ltd, of New Road, first started up in the 60s, to support a heating service.

Owner Ray Andrews, aged 74, remembered back to 1968 and the problems of industrial action in the following decade.

He said: "It's been hard work, especially since not long afterwards

we started we had the three-day week and the miners' strike.

"At one stage I was selling galvanised garden clothes to pay workers' wages."

"It's just been so great to have so many employees here that have been here since we started and we've even had three generations of family here at one time."

"My father was a metal worker

and he worked in a factory. We started with nothing and we employed over 200 people at one stage."

Mr Andrews' son Richard and daughter, Kate Birt, attended the celebration.

Mr Andrews' flue business first started as a support for a company which he was involved with already.

# Boiler Man goodies are just Ideal for Baggies fans

ALBION'S new unlikely superstar Boiler Man has launched his own line of merchandise.

Baggies fans can now snap up a Boiler Man T-shirt, mug or even a car air freshener.

The sponsorship mascot, a combi-boiler, already has his own Twitter account, and tweeted: "The moment you've all been waiting for... Boiler Man merch is now online, visit boiler-manshop.co.uk to pre-order the hottest merch on the market".

The all-white appliance posted a picture of himself pointing at one of the new £15 T-shirts, which read "I am Boiler Man".

One fan tweeted: "One week out of the office and I miss this? Make sure you save me one before they sell out!"

Another tweeted: "We are the envy of the entire footballing world!!" Another said: "Not Boiler Man Figure yet?"

Boiler Man, a combi-boiler from Ideal Boilers which has a partnership with the club, has been an instant hit among fans and pundits.

Ideal Boilers originally named the mascot "Vinny the Vogue" after its range of boilers, but this was soon dropped in favour of Boiler Man. The Twitter account, @IdealBoilerMan, has attracted more than 3,000 followers since Boiler Man's debut on August 4.

# Call for answers on gym proposal

RESIDENTS have demanded answers from fitness company bosses behind plans to build dozens of homes and a gym on a busy Dudley road.

Applicant Fitness4Less has been called on to address concerns over proposals to redevelop the site in Thorns Road, Quarry Bank. Plans would see 14 apartments and 19 townhouses go up along the road near the Merry Hill shopping centre, which carries 24,000 vehicles a day.

Fitness4Less says its existing gym requires 'significant redevelopment to harmonise the site'. Residents had raised concerns over further congestion, lack of parking and loss of privacy.

Councillor Mohammed Hanif said: "The ball is in their court and they really now should be coming back to us."

Fitness4Less was contacted for comment.

# Real ale festival

THE annual summer beer festival at a real ale pub will run through the August Bank Holiday weekend.

The Swan Inn in Long Lane, Halesowen, is staging the event from August 23 to 27. It is part of the Black Country Ales chain and has 16 handpumps.

## Hearing Problems ...or maybe just ear wax?

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Crews pull man clear of flat fire

A MAN was rescued from his Black Country flat by firefighters after a blaze broke out when a cooker was left unattended.

Firefighters got the man out of the property after the fire started in Price Street. Crews from Dudley, Brierley Hill and Tipton stations were sent to the address.

West Midlands Fire Service said a man had to be led to safety by the crews who were wearing breathing apparatus.

The occupier also received a precautionary check-up from paramedics.

The incident prompted a warning from fire chiefs to never leave cooking unattended.

The fire service said on Twitter: "There was smoke damage to the kitchen and some of the flat."

"It's fortunate we were able to get the occupier out. We hope he will make a full recovery."

"It's important not to leave cooking unattended, it's very dangerous."

### Lupus information day held at college

A LUPUS information day is being held in Dudley.

The West Midlands Lupus Information Day will take place on October 6 at Dudley College, The Broadway.

It will run from 1.30pm with registration from 1pm.

Tickets are free and are available by visiting <https://www.lupusuk.org.uk/west-midlands-info-day-2018/> or by emailing [info@lupusuk.org.uk](mailto:info@lupusuk.org.uk) for more information.

### Town hall stage for summer ball

A SUMMER ball is to be held at Dudley Town Hall next month.

The event will take place at the St James's Road venue on Saturday, September 1, between 8pm and 11.30pm. It will include an evening of ballroom, Latin American and sequence dancing.

Tickets cost £6.50, which includes reserved seating. To book, call Fiona Bennett on 01384 243451.

### Line dancing night to aid tumour charity

A CHARITY line dancing night is being held in Brierley Hill Civic Hall tomorrow night (Friday).

The Lex's Liners event takes place from 5.30pm to 11.30pm in aid of the Brain Tumour Charity.

It will include line dancing workshops and dance shoes will be on sale.

Tickets are £12.50 for dancers and £6.50 for non-dancers. Call 07412 656076.

## MP dropped as patron of YMCA after revelations

AN MP whose father was a former Mayor of Dudley has been dropped as a patron of the YMCA.

Andrew Griffiths was a patron of the charity but has been told his actions are incompatible with the organisation. He is said to have bombarded a 28-year-old barmaid and her friend with lewd comments over social media during a three-week period.

The one-time High Arcal school-boy sent 2,000 messages in which he referred to himself as 'Daddy', suggested renting a flat so they could meet for sex and asked them to send him explicit photos, according to reports in a national newspaper.

The 48-year-old married father, whose wife Kate gave birth to daughter Alice Harriett in April, resigned as minister for small business following the revelations.

In a statement, the MP for Burton upon Trent, and a former Chief of Staff to Theresa May, said he was 'deeply ashamed'. He was brought up in Coseley and his late father Bob was a Dudley councillor for three decades and served as mayor.

A spokesman for YMCA England & Wales said: "Whilst YMCA acknowledges the support Mr Griffiths has given YMCA during his time as MP, the nature of the recent revelations does not fit with the values of YMCA and the work that we do with young people".

## Rock Houses play is back by demand

A PLAY is set to return to the Kinver Rock Houses after popular demand.

Spirits of the Rock, written by New Kinver Players chairman Martin Ward, will be performed at the National Trust site over the first weekend in September.

It was commissioned last year by the National Trust to commemorate 100 years of ownership of Kinver Edge and the Rock Houses.

Performed inside the largest sandstone cave, known as the Ballroom, audiences will be able to learn of the real life experiences of those who lived there. Four performances will take place and the tea rooms will also remain open until 6.30pm.

Tickets are available from [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/events](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/events).

## Fundraiser at pub

AN Upper Gornal pub hosts a fundraiser for the Black Country Well-being Centre from noon tomorrow (Friday). The Gornal Fun Day, at the Spills Meadow in Kent Street, will include a barbecue and entertainment.

## School building makeover after £20k win



The centre is in a state of disrepair

A PRIMARY school building is to undergo a £20,000 revamp after winning a competition.

Bromley Pensnett Primary will see its learning hub for parents and children brought back to life after five years of inactivity and falling into disrepair.

Smethwick-based property management firm Novus will oversee a full refurbishment of the building as part of the company's fifth anniversary.

A team of 10 will install a new roof, repair and redecorate the interior and exterior, fit new steps, replace

doors and flooring, and install a new kitchen.

Bromley Pensnett Primary School caters for 320 children aged between three and 11.

Head Helen Tomlinson said: "Our community currently lacks many of the services so vital to parents, carers and children at the school."

"This project from Novus will ensure we can really increase the scope of the help and support we can offer to those who need it most."

The refurbishment comes as part of a competition by Novus to support

worthwhile projects in the communities it operates in, as voted for by people in the area.

Once works have concluded the Learning Hub will provide a space where parents and carers can visit for support and advice.

The building will provide the facilities for parents to complete health checks and weigh-in sessions and attend breast-feeding clinics.

It will also offer a centre throughout the summer holidays for parents to leave their children at while they go to work.

## Hospital will be razed for 100-home scheme

A RUN-down former hospital will finally be torn down to make way for more than 100 homes.

Ridge Hill Hospital in Wordsley has been derelict for years and developers have been given the green light to bring in the bulldozers.

The site already has planning permission for 129 homes and part of the hospital has already been knocked down. Dudley Council has given permission for the remaining buildings to be cleared. They include the Keeling Centre and former nurses accommodation blocks.

Nearly residents have long called for action over the derelict hospital buildings, which have been become run-down and a magnet for arsonists and vandals.

Several bids to put homes on the site have been lodged since the hospital closed more than a decade ago, but none has yet come to fruition.

Once demolition is complete, preparatory works will be carried out on the site while the search is launched for a developer. Planning agents Cushman and Wakefield said the work would be 'managed to limit the impact on neighbours'.

Wordsley councillor Matt Rogers said he was pleased the development was finally moving forward but that he hoped concerns over an increase in traffic would be addressed.

He said: "I have expressed concerns about traffic."

He added: "We have had antisocial behaviour in the area and it will be good to have some new life in the site."

Documents submitted with the plans said: "The outline permission for residential redevelopment will support housing growth and the effective use of previously developed brownfield land."

"The site is previously developed land and has been vacant for a number of years."

## Truckers show support for Rachel



Andrew Day with his wife Rachel, of Dudley, with the charity lorry convoy

DOZENS of lorries took to Black Country roads for a charity truck convoy.

The Kingswinford Charity Truck Convoy saw 44 lorries drive across the region to help raise awareness of organ donation.

The annual event is organised by Andrew Day, aged 45, of Dudley, whose wife Rachel, 42, is fighting a terminal illness which causes her immune system to attack her organs.

She had a transplant after being diagnosed three years ago but it was rejected by her system. She needs another one but is yet to find a match.

Saturday's convoy began at the

held the convoy every year - it's for organ donor awareness to get the word out further that more organ donors are needed to save people's lives.

"My wife had a transplant a few years ago because her immune system keeps attacking her organs. She needs another transplant now."

Lorry drivers travelled from as far as Bristol to take part. Mr Day says he will get the support of Wolverhampton Council next year.

"Rachel really enjoyed herself and was grateful of the support from the drivers and the public," Mr Day added.



HGVs on The Keyway, Willenhall

Hilton Park Services on Junction 10A of the M6 before journeying through Wolverhampton, Bilston and Dudley. The HGVs headed towards Stourport for a charity auction in the evening.

Lorry driver Mr Day said: "We

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# Nerves turn to delight for anxious A-level students

THE moment of truth came and went for thousands of nervous youngsters across the Black Country and Staffordshire as they opened their A-level results.

Many schools and colleges saw their pass rates rise and happy teenagers were all smiles as they secured places at university. One head teacher at Dudley's Ellowes Hall Sports College was delighted. Star pupil Olivia Saunders, from Lower Gornal, marked herself as the first pupil to ever achieve two A\* grades.

## Wide choice in uni places via clearing

YOUNGSTERS who are still seeking university places are likely to face a wealth of choice as institutions scramble to attract good candidates on to their degree courses.

University leaders suggested that there could be more people who are using clearing this year to apply to university for the first time.

A snapshot survey suggested that, even before results were released, more than 26,000 courses were available in clearing for students in England only.

For those looking for degree places through clearing this summer, there are suggestions that they are likely to find it is a buyers' market.

Nine in 10 UK institutions have at least one course listed in clearing, the survey found.

The numbers of courses listed change frequently as different courses are filled, or become available.

Olivia, aged 18, said: "It feels amazing." Charlotte Collins helped continue the college's success streak after achieving an A\* in English literature, an A in sociology and a C in psychology. The 18-year-old had to learn to walk again after a battle with scoliosis whilst undergoing her GCSEs..

Meanwhile, almost half of all students at St Edmund's Catholic Academy in Wolverhampton achieved at least one A\* or A grade.

### Nursing

Kyra Martin-Chambers, from Wolverhampton, had battled with sickle-cell anaemia. The 18-year-old even had to do coursework from New Cross Hospital whilst undergoing treatment. But now, thanks to achieving a distinction\* in law, merit in health and social care and a D in sociology, the teenager will now be studying adult nursing.

There were celebrations at Aldridge School too, where Alesha Peace is off to Oxford University to read classics after achieving an A\* in classics and English literature.

Joseph Leckie Academy's Sixth Form was celebrating a 100 per cent pass rate in 21 subjects with successes in both vocational as well as A Level courses.

## Listed church to close after 181 years



Closure move could eventually see the building sold off

A GRADE II-listed church in Tipton is set to close in a move which could see the building eventually sold off.

St Martin and St Paul Church was built in 1837. But under plans by Lichfield Diocese, the congregation would be moved to St Matthews Church, also in Tipton.

If the proposal to close the church is approved, the diocese could then apply to sell the site.

Ward councillor Ian Jones said: "It is a very sad day the church has to close, but unfortunately the number of people using it has been identified as not sufficient.

"I can understand why they [the church] are rationalising. It is a difficult one when you do not have the people or money to continue to look after such a building. I hope that St Matthews can accommodate the numbers which move across."

He added: "If it is then sold off, I hope the building has a use which is sympathetic to its current state. Given the footfall I'm not sure how it could be used next, maybe a community group could take it on."

The closure was first mooted in 2015 following the retirement of the incumbent.

Fears were then raised that the parish did not have the resources for necessary repairs of the red-brick building. A public meeting was held in April of the same year on the proposal to close the church which is an example of an early Gothic Revival style.

## Celebration for record in pass rates

STAR performers at Sandwell College were last week celebrating yet another outstanding set of A Level results with their students.

Youngsters at Central Sixth campus again achieved an impressive 99 per cent pass rate, with a 100 per cent pass rate in a record 19 subjects.

Tamara Herrington got A\*AA in geography, biology and politics. She is now going to the University of Durham to study politics. Katy Forrester got A\*AA in English language and literature, drama and theatre, and sociology. She is on her way to Lancaster University to study theatre and English literature.

Kaven Judge is to start his higher apprenticeship with KPMG after accomplishing a hat-trick of As in accounting, business and economics.

Sameer Qadeer also gained triple A grades in biology, chemistry and maths, and David Nemec gained an A,B, and an A. Sameer will be reading medicine at Birmingham University, while David will be studying for his degree in biomedical science at University College London.

Director of Central Sixth and Assistant Principal, Dr Matt Lamb, said: "Due to the recent reforms A Levels are now more challenging than ever before, and so it is a tribute to staff and students to have received these excellent results."

## TUC hits out over rail fare increases

THE Trades Union Congress has hit out at rail fare increases and called again for services to return to public ownership.

TUC analysis found that some annual season tickets will go up by up to £163 a year in the latest round of increases. General Secretary Frances O'Grady said: "This is an insult to hard-pressed commuters."

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 B64 6DD  
 9.15am  
 Sarah 07815 071982

**Old Hill**  
 Lawrence Lane  
 Methodist Church Old Hill  
 B64 6DD  
 5.30pm & 7.30pm  
 Sarah 07815 071982

**Blackheath Central Methodist Church**  
 High Street, Blackheath  
 B65 0DR  
 NEW TIMES  
 9.30am & 11.30am  
 Anne 07815 643963

**Blackheath Central Methodist Church**  
 High Street, Blackheath  
 B65 0DR  
 5pm & 7pm  
 Anne 07815 643963

**MONDAY**  
**Halesowen**  
 Benjamins Banquet Suite  
 Birmingham Street  
 5.30pm  
 Elaine 0121 550 6414

**Halesbury School**  
 Feldon Lane, Halesowen  
 B62 9DR  
 5.30pm & 7.30pm  
 Dawn 07859 010175

**Old Hill**  
 Holy Trinity Church  
 Halesowen Rd  
 7pm  
 Sarah 07815 071982

**TUESDAY**  
**Halesbury School**  
 Feldon Lane, Halesowen  
 B62 9DR  
 7pm  
 Dawn 07859 010175

**Blackheath Coronation Social Club**  
 George Avenue  
 Rowley Regis,  
 B65 9BD  
 7pm  
 Maddie 07815 132320

**Christian Fellowship**  
 Albert Rd Halesowen  
 9.30am & 11.30am  
 Lorraine 07936 217340

**Cradley Sports & Social Club**  
 Colley Lane, Colley Gate  
 7.30pm  
 Stacey 07411 486694

**Lutley Community Centre**  
 Brookwillow Rd, Halesowen  
 5.30pm & 7.30pm  
 Lorraine 07936 217340

**FRIDAY**  
**Combaw Hall**  
 Halesowen Library  
 Level 2, next to Asda,  
 Halesowen  
 8am, 10am & 12pm  
 Michaela 07901 583236

**Dudley Golf Club**  
 Turners Hill  
 Rowley Regis, B65 9DP  
 9.30am  
 Maddie 07815 132320

**Netherend Neighbourhood Centre**  
 Mogul Lane, Cradley  
 9.30am  
 Amanda 07862 274058

**SATURDAY**  
**Combaw Hall**  
 Halesowen Library, Level 2, next to Asda, Halesowen  
 9.15am  
 Michaela 07901 583236

**Wilson Hall Cradley Labour Club**  
 Colley Gate  
 5.30pm & 7.30pm  
 Stacey 07411 486694

**THURSDAY**  
**Liberal Club**  
 Upper High St, Cradley Heath  
 9.30am & 11.30am  
 Romina 07432 558596

**Liberal Club**  
 Upper High St, Cradley Heath  
 5pm & 7pm  
 Romina 07432 558596

**St Peters Church Hall**  
 Hiplands Road, Halesowen  
 5.30pm & 7.30pm  
 Elaine 0121 5506414

**Stag & 3 Horse Shoes**  
 Top of Mucklow Hill  
 Halesowen Rd  
 7pm  
 Ellie 07970 600763

**Netherend Neighbourhood Centre**  
 Mogul Lane, Cradley  
 5.15pm & 7.15pm  
 Amanda 07862 274058

**Lightwoods Primary School**  
 (off Clent Rd), Oldbury B68 9ER  
 8am + 10am  
 Maddie 07815 132320

**Netherend Neighbourhood Centre**  
 Mogul Lane, Cradley  
 8am - 10am & 12pm  
 Amanda 07862 274058

**The Scout Centre**  
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# Hospital completion bill soars by another £300m

THE Government is to spend more than £300 million of taxpayers' money to finish work on the stalled Midland Metropolitan Hospital at Smethwick, with work getting under way this autumn.

It will take the final bill for the hospital to more than £500 million when it opens in 2022 – four years later than originally planned. In the meantime urgent repairs and weatherproofing work is needed at the site, which has stood idle since building company Carillion collapsed in January.

## Vaccine alert after outbreak of measles

HEALTH bosses at Sandwell Council are urging young adults to check whether they have had their MMR vaccine following a recent outbreak of measles across the country.

They have drawn up a targeted marketing campaign in the wake of an outbreak which has included cases in the West Midlands.

Young adults may have missed their vaccine due to a controversy that occurred 20 years ago surrounding the combined measles, mumps and rubella vaccine, which falsely linked the jab to autism and resulted in a significant drop in its uptake.

Ansaf Azhar, interim Director of Public Health, said: "Measles can be a very serious illness and lead to severe complications, especially in people who are particularly vulnerable or have other health conditions."

Up to £20 million will be spent over the coming months to secure the site from further weather damage before the winter, so construction work by a new contractor can start next spring.

Despite the best efforts of maintenance staff to protect the vast site from the worst of the wind and rain over the last seven months, some areas inside are suffering from mould where water has seeped in. A handful of former Carillion workers have been kept at the site by the Sandwell & West Birmingham NHS Trust.

### Adhesives

Rob Maiden, the former safety manager on the construction site, said all plasterboarding in the building would need to be checked for damp to ensure there was no further risk of mould.

"Some of it will have to be replaced, along with some building materials that have run out of date, like the adhesives, and some metalwork that won't be able to be salvaged," he said.

A 29-year Carillion veteran and member of the core team at the Midland Met site since before construction started three years ago, he admitted it had been "sad and really frustrating" to see work on the project stalled. But



Rob Maiden, the former safety manager on the construction site points out the mould that has formed

there was an enthusiastic reception for the Government's decision to directly pay for work to complete the two-thirds built hospital.

The idea of a second private finance deal, similar to the one with Carillion, has been dropped and instead the money will come from the taxpayer.

When completed, Midland Metropolitan will be equipped with state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment, 15 operating theatres, and at least 669

beds. It will provide acute care for adults and children as well as maternity care and specialised surgery.

But the four year delay – originally the hospital was due to be handed over to the trust this month – will place added strain on the existing hospital services in the area.

Making the funding announcement, Cabinet Office Minister David Lidington said: "Following detailed negotiation, the Government is pleased to

announce this package of support, in partnership with Birmingham and Sandwell NHS Trust, to ensure completion of this new hospital.

"Our priority through this process has been to keep public services running smoothly and safely. The plans we put in place have ensured this."

Hospital trust chief executive, Toby Lewis, said: "We are delighted that we now have a definitive publicly financed plan."

## Cancer fear weedkiller in council use

COUNCILS in the Black Country have said they will continue to use a weedkiller after an American court ruled that it 'causes cancer'.

Dudley and Sandwell local authorities have both said they will still use glyphosate, despite fears it could be harmful.

Concerns over the chemical hit the headlines after a Californian man received £226 million in damages from Monsanto, who use it in their best-selling product, Round Up.

The company has denied it causes cancer and said it will appeal against the ruling. Both councils said they used the chemical in its parks and green spaces.

Dudley Council has said it also uses the product on highway verges and it relies on advice from government agencies when choosing chemicals.

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "We will continue to monitor the situation and review any advice issued by the HSE and or the Government, and will act accordingly."

Sandwell councillor Bill Gavan said: "We only use very small amounts of products containing glyphosate in our parks and green spaces. No guidance has been issued in the UK regarding any change in how they are used."

## Brum in top 10 for cities to visit

RESEARCH has put Birmingham among the top 10 best cities to visit this summer, coming in at ninth.

Payday loan company Wonga has put together the Summer Friendly City Index for the UK that has ranked cities against the number of free activities they offer, such as landmarks, museums and parks.

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## IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



# Unexpected saviour brings hope to Beatties

WHEN questioned about allegations of Dickensian working conditions at his Sports Direct warehouse, Mike Ashley famously told MPs "I'm not Father Christmas. That came shortly after he had told them "you can't house train me."

Given that, many will understandably be sceptical that he is being touted as the knight in shining armour running to the rescue of Beatties.

But still, any port in a storm, and after spending £90 million buying the House of Fraser chain out of administration, Mr Ashley is at least making the right noises about keeping 80 per cent of its stores open, and turning it into the 'Harrods of the high street'.

Many will wonder why Mr Ashley has chosen to invest in such a risky venture at a time when people are said to be deserting the high street in droves. I suspect the purchase is far less about making money, and more about boosting his reputation. Saving a venerable department store chain with a rich history will give him a standing in the business world that no amount of discount sports wear ever will.

If this is the case, there is cause for hope. We all know Mike Ashley is not the sentimental type, but if he is looking at a bigger picture than that can only be a good thing.

As for turning House of Fraser into the Harrods of the high street, well I guess the proof will be in the pudding. If the new autumn collection consists of shell suits and Reeboks, I suspect some will consider it only a partial success.

□ □ □

STAYING on the high street, it has been revealed that Dudley Council's coffers have taken a £500,000 hit since introducing free parking. Now, in the context of the average household budget, half a million pounds sounds like a lot. But when it comes to council finances, it is a drop in the ocean. About £1.60 per head, which seems pretty good value to me.

Certainly better value than the £6.7 million spent on the market place redevelopment a few years ago. And which do you think brings the most people into the town – free parking or block paving?

Yes the high street is still struggling, but imagine how many more businesses would have been lost were people still expected to pay for parking. And how much money would have been lost in business rates, dealing vandalism, fly posters and graffiti were it not for this modest expenditure?

The decision to provide shoppers with free parking in Dudley was a masterstroke. Maybe some of our other local authorities should follow suit.

## Elba statesman – or is 45-year-old actor a solid Bond?



45-year-old Idris Elba, too old for Bond? Whisper it, but Roger Moore was older, aged 46!



Another troubling week for Jeremy Corbyn in the wake of more anti-semitism rumblings



Striking similarities to Jezzer – another Jeremy C. Clarkson, eventually kicked out by the Beeb

# Wreathgate may lock Corbyn out for good

OFF to the pub for a steak which, in the latest fashion for bizarre methods of serving (chips in buckets, etc), came on a waxed napkin on a breadboard. It was almost impossible to eat because each mouthful of steak contained a serving of napkin but the staff look horrified when I asked them to put it on a proper plate. A reader tells me he was once served a bread roll in a carpet slipper. Any other weird dining experiences welcome.

THE perils of family trees. A reader revisited her home town and called at the local museum in the hope of discovering famous or distinguished relatives. She found a display board used in an exhibition a couple of years ago featuring a Victorian photograph showing her great-great uncle. It should have been a proud moment but the text revealed that "unfortunately his nickname in the village was Farty because his initials were WC". Never meet your heroes.

I SUGGESTED that Idris Elba, now 45, might be a tad old to be embarking on a career as James Bond. A reader points out that the present incumbent, Daniel Craig, is 50. Maybe so. But when he took over the 007 mantle in 2005 Craig was a spry young 37. In Ian Fleming's books, Bond's age is not revealed, and he never ages. However there is a clue in one passage referring to the secret-service retirement age which suggests he is 37.

IN a perfect world for Corbynism, this torrid week of Wreathgate would end with the discovery of Jeremy's Secret Photo Album and all the wicked smears would vanish. Comrade Jez's stock response when challenged about meeting Irish or Middle Eastern terrorists is to put on his most pious expression and say he wants an end

## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



to all violence. He does not need to condemn IRA murders because he condemns all murders. He does not need to condemn Palestinian rocket attacks on Israel because he condemns all attacks. He would have us believe he is reaching out to all in the quest for peace. As he said of the Tunisia affair: "I was there because I wanted to see a fitting memorial to everyone who has died in every terrorist incident everywhere because we have to end it. You cannot pursue peace by a cycle of violence; the only way you can pursue peace is by a cycle of dialogue."

SOUNDS terrific, doesn't it? But where, exactly, is the dialogue? How much time has Jeremy Corbyn spent talking to the other sides? Where are the photos of this saintly allotment keeper meeting Israeli families bereaved by Palestinian killers? Where are the pictures of him shaking hands with Protestant paramilitaries in Ulster or comforting those maimed by IRA bombs? Maybe all those images are tucked away in Jeremy's Secret Photo Album. Or maybe not.

A TALE of two Jeremys...The potentially disastrous Wreathgate saga reminds me of Jeremy Clarkson who, having a certain charisma and lots of fans, got away with mistake after mistake until one night he called his producer a "lazy Irish \*\*\*\*" and punched him. That was the tipping point, the end of Clarkson at the Beeb and I suspect we are nearing the end of Corbyn. This prospect may scare his supporters but it

terrifies the Tories.

WHY are we waiting? According to the latest reports, police have CCTV footage of suspects in the Salisbury nerve-agent incidents. So why have they not released it? CCTV captures only a moment in time. Figuring out where those people were, and what they did, before or after the filming is crucial and Joe Public may have the answers. So why can't Joe Public see the footage?

AND here's another Salisbury puzzle. Cops seem to have assumed that the bottle allegedly containing the Novichok agent and found in a local park was the only bottle used. For all we know, a second or third bottle may be lying undiscovered or, worse, sitting on somebody's mantelpiece. Again, releasing an image of the discovered bottle might jog someone's memory. But no images have been shown. It is all very odd.

OH, brave new world. My eye was caught by a feature about a new "switching glass" window which can be installed in your bathroom. Flick a switch and it turns from clear to opaque, so you cannot be seen, even if passers-by or your neighbours are just a few feet away. As long as the power is on, your privacy is guaranteed. What could possibly go wrong? You switch on the light, the window goes blank. You disrobe and relax in the bath. You fall asleep. There is a power cut . . .

THIS week's hot news from the world of medical research is that salt is not as harmful as the experts thought last week but vaping is more harmful than the experts thought last week. Anyone care to guess what next week will bring?

## TALKING POINT



# Weight for it! It's time to accept I'm a fattie

PASS me the chocolate biscuits, I've decided, once and for all to accept my fate, I have no option but to realise I will be an overweight person for the rest of my days on this planet. It's an unfortunate, but necessary admission, for the sake of my sanity.

Yep, the size 32in-waist jeans that looked so good five years ago, are bound for the charity shop, unless I append them with some kind of industrial-strength fastener, but then movement would become difficult and sitting down, impossible.

Recently – as I suffer the catch-up effects of a life of relative contentment, via the occasional pint and kebab/Indian/pizza, etc – things seem to have taken a turn for the worse. It's a difficult situation to come to terms with. When trying on new clothes in a store's changing rooms and being horrified at what you see before you, it's so easy to blame the mirror. Then spend the rest of the day shying away from reflections, neck-down anyway, after landing back home.

You talk things over with your other half, say you're worried about how much weight you're putting on, and then they very helpfully show you a photograph of you from a year ago, which shows the double chins, paunch and general rosy-cheeked glow of a chubby 50-something. Great, thanks for that!

In a light bulb moment, I think it might be something to do with a new inhaler for my asthma, Symbicort, and seeking some kind of vindication, of course I turn to the internet. I search for Symbicort and on entering the 'w' for weight gain, up comes a lengthy list of people who seem to think the drug is the cause for their own expanding waistline!

Armed with this erm... foolproof evidence, I then tackle my GP on the issue and it's not hard to see her difficulty in trying to maintain a straight face. Blood tests follow to investigate the possibility of an underactive thyroid, and cholesterol levels – all to no avail.

So it seems, lifestyle needs to be looked at. I dig out that book my missus bought me (again, thanks!) by a certain lifestyle guru, with advice on workouts and diet, and it soon occurs to me that he (hairly pretty boy with biceps, you know who I mean!) must be in league with a leading supermarket, as all the recipes have the most hard to find ingredients, which will cost an absolute fortune to buy!

It seems everybody these days is on the take. Come the revolution, us fatties will line him and his ilk up against the wall and force-feed them cream cakes, beer and French cheese until they are like the rest of us...

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# A gravy train not a passenger service

I READ a billboard that read 'HS2 Pay Shock!' Well it's not a shock and anyone who is shocked by it must have been living in cloud cuckoo land.

When it started the cost was to be £30 billion and over time it's now estimated that it will cost £80bn and when we speak of such obscene amounts someone somewhere will be financially much better off.

Does the government really believe that we believe for one second that this train is being built for the benefit of Joe Public? It's being built for the rich to get richer as

shown by the pay that is being issued. Those people who are being forced out of their homes, businesses being lost, land turned over and wildlife destroyed are the losers.

No one should be shocked that large amounts are paid out to executives and others, it's not a passenger train, it's a gravy train feeding off the money train, the tax payer. These train companies can't even get timetables right, how on earth are they going to get HS2 right?

**PETE LOWE**  
Brierley Hill

# Fed up of adverts on the Beeb

HAVING watched a fair bit of BBC television I cannot help but notice the adverts we get between every programme.

It can be a break of anything from two to five minutes with no adverts for Gibbs SR toothpaste, or the cleaner that beats as it sweeps as it cleans, it all leaves me a bit Confused. com. No, the BBC have adverts for iPlayer, apps, 'Get Inspired' and radio.

Then of course the television tax itself has its own advert. It must be the only tax in the country that has a television advert all paid for by us the television tax payer or a do they prefer licence holders?

It is time to pull the plug on the BBC finances. If they are as good as director general Tony Hall appears to think, let him put his money where his mouth his is.

**EWART J JOHNSON**  
Warley

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## POST

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If we cannot reach a resolution contact ipso at complaints@ipso.co.uk or by post at ipso, c/o Gate House, 1 Farringdon Street, London, EC4M 3LG

# Cycling participation ended by potholes

I AGREE entirely with your recent correspondent on potholes. My brother's keen and active participation in cycling well into his 60s was effectively ended by an injury caused by a pothole in Wombourne some years ago.

The hole was suddenly and mysteriously repaired whilst he was arguing with the council. It is interesting that during the course of

driving nearly 3,000 miles in France this summer I saw only one pothole - and that even the most remote rural roads are well surfaced and maintained. This in a country where road fund tax does not exist. I think if we burned a few hay bales and blockaded a couple of ports, we might see some action.

**B WILLIAMS**  
Wordsley

# Hippodrome reopen call

I WANT to make a protest about Dudley Council and what they are trying to do about The Hippodrome. They intend to knock it down without asking the people of Dudley what they want.

I myself would like it to be open again to give shows like the good old days. There are lots of people like me who like to see those days come back with dances and shows which would be welcome by all ages.

If we went back in the past it was the Earl of Dudley that made the Hippodrome for the people, now this council want to knock it down. They told the committee if they can get 3,000 people to sign, they will think about it.

**L HEGLEY**  
Kingswinford

# Thanks from grateful wife

ON July 17 my husband suffered a heart attack and I just wanted to thank everyone involved in his care.

From the paramedics arriving within five minutes to the doctors and every single member of nursing staff at New Cross Cardiac Unit B14.

Not only did they look after him, they took the time to look after me too as I was in shock.

You are all absolute angels.

Thank you so very very much.  
**IRENE PASKIN**  
Lower Gornal

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## Nature reserve labelled 'hidden gem'

A LONELY Planet author is drawing national attention to Saltwells Nature Reserve in Dudley borough after calling it a 'hidden gem'.

Travel writer and photographer Oliver Berry suggested the Netherton site, maintained by Dudley Council with the help of community volunteers, as a place to visit. His comments

follow a report from Trainline who teamed up with the author to uncover some of the British Isles' best-kept secrets. It showed train bookings to the West Midlands, namely Birmingham, has risen by 163 per cent this summer.

Saltwells Nature Reserve is famous for its bluebells in spring and is loved for its many sculptures. It is home to

woodpeckers and wild orchids and is teeming with the most species of dragonflies in any locality in the Midlands.

Saltwells is at the heart of the Black Country Geopark and Councillor Karen Shakespeare, cabinet member for environment, said: "I am thrilled that our hard work is not going unnoticed."

## Whitewater raft accident won't stop Samuel



Property tycoon Samuel Leeds seen with a team of volunteers on a whitewater raft in Uganda, before the disaster

## Millionaire missionary in Uganda fall drama

**'I WILL grow as a person from this experience and I have tremendous faith in God – my knee might be broken in various places, but my spirit remains'.**

Self-made millionaire Samuel Leeds says he is determined to bounce back after shattering his kneecap during a freak white water rafting accident on the River Nile.

The 27-year-old is now back at home with his wife Amanda in Lichfield, but his leg is in full plaster cast and he has just been told by doctors he may not be able to walk properly again.

Mr Leeds, a devout Christian, says the set-back will not stop his missions on the African continent, and his work as a successful businessman back home. He had been in Uganda visiting villages benefitting from rain water collection tanks he had paid for when he went white water rafting on an adventure expedition last month.

The raft capsized and he was thrown 20ft down a waterfall when his kneecap hit rocks. After a week of treatment in hospital in the capital Kampala, Mr Leeds is back with his family.

### Determined

"I'm not the sort of person who is going to let something like this knock me back, I'm determined to prove the doctors wrong," he said.

"I have a strong faith, a loving family and a huge passion for my work. "It's like Rocky said, it isn't about how hard you hit, but how hard you get hit and keep moving forward."

Mr Leeds is no ordinary businessman, having left school at 16 and first setting out on a career as a magician.

But he soon discovered property and, at the age of 17, he went to a home-buying networking event. He bought a house under market value and rented it out, the first step toward the multi-million pound business, Leeds Group, he runs with his brother Russell. They now own 26 houses and the group, which also includes a construction company, a lettings agency and another firm sourcing properties for investors, has a turnover of £250,000 a month.

Mr Leeds also provides talks at property investment events and writes



Samuel, with his leg in plaster, at home with wife Amanda and daughter Ruby



Inspirational, Arnold Schwarzenegger



Samuel with Richard Branson

books. His latest, Buy Low Rent High, has sold 42,000 copies in 15 months.

He says he has been inspired by successful people he has met. They include Alan Sugar, at a business networking event in London, and actors Arnold Schwarzenegger, and Sylvester Stallone at a 'meet and greet' events in the West Midlands.

But at the core of Mr Leeds' life is religion. He donates 10 per cent of his profits – and his wages – to the Church and helping impoverished villagers in Africa through his Good News All Round organisation.

But disaster struck when they took part on the expedition called the Warrior Camp with students on his Prop-

erty Investors Academy in Jinja, on the shore of Lake Victoria.

The white water rafting on July 19 was part of the expedition and involved seven of his team, including his brother and sister-in-law Anna.

Anna was also injured when she got taken away down the river and was not found for 45 minutes. Mr Leeds was treated in hospital and his mother, Sue Gray, flew out from England to bring him home, paying £10,000 for the flight a week later. He continued treatment back in Birmingham.

He will now continue his rehabilitation from home with his wife and their daughter Ruby. The couple are expecting a second child next year.





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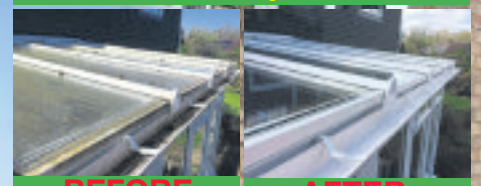
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# 10 Exam success for youngest councillor, 18

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, August 23, 2018

THE West Midlands' youngest councillor is celebrating his second major success in four months after winning a place to study at Birmingham University.

Jake Cooper, a Dudley councillor, said he was 'ecstatic' after achieving an A\*, A and B grades in his A-levels after taking exams at King Edwards College, in Stourbridge.

His success is even more impressive as he had to revise while he campaigning to win his Belle Vale ward council seat in May.

The 18-year-old is now looking forward to studying political science and international relations in the next step of a political career he hopes will see him in the House of Commons.

## Tricky

As one of the youngest councillors in the country, he admitted balancing a political career and school work was tricky.

"My results were brilliant and much better than I expected," he said. "It was obviously very difficult and I was improvising quite a lot."

"I had to make sure I left another time between campaigning and revising and I stuck to my timetable, making sure I got my college work done and that I think is a good tip for anyone studying."

He said he chose the University of Birmingham because he wants to continue as a councillor while studying and trying to enjoy the student life.

"I'm looking forward to meeting new people and getting involved in the debates and exchanging of ideas," he added.

## Hall art exhibition

HIMLEY Hall, near Dudley, is playing host to an exhibition of work by local artists.

The work of members of 90-year-old Dudley Society of Artists is being staged until September 2. There is free entry to the hall from 11am to 4pm each day.



Jean and Ann Bedworth after donating £2,500 to Russells Hall Hospital



Christine Taylor, left, and Jean in 2001



Jean at a celebration garden party to honour her British Empire Medal



Jean Hughes along with her keep fit class at Wordsley Community Centre



Jean Hughes pictured back in 1972



Jean Hughes, front, with members of her keep fit group in 1983

# Jean exercises right to retire

FOR more than four decades she has been helping women across the Black Country keep fit – and has never missed a single class.

Now, 46 years after putting on her first session, 82-year-old Jean Hughes has decided to call it a day.

When she started out at Wordsley Community Centre in 1972 she had eight women taking part – and now she has said farewell to 90. Mother-

of-one Jean said: "I've always wanted to keep fit. I was going to classes in 1957 in West Bromwich and when I came to live in Kingswinford I joined a class and that's when I was asked to take it over."

"When I took over in Wordsley, there were only eight women but now there's 90. The ladies became friends and it was a lovely friendly atmosphere. It was very difficult to

walk out and think 'that's it, I've done it now'. My daughter visited that class for me, knowing that it would be difficult to walk out."

"I had some members with young daughters and then the daughters left to get married and have children of their own, quite a few mothers and daughters over the years."

Jean, from Kingswinford, has shown so much dedication to the fit-

ness cause that she has never missed a class – even when it snowed.

She has also helped to raise £129,000 for charity and has been awarded a British Empire Medal.

"I think we've covered most charities," she said. "It was not just me, it was my group as well. I've got a good group of ladies."

"I had been nominated by members of the class and I said I would ac-

cept the medal on behalf of my class because I didn't do it alone."

"I've got about 80 retirement cards and letters from people that don't want me to retire, but after 46 years I feel I want a bit of time for me because it's taken up an awful lot of my time."

"It was a big decision. Now I'm going to wind down and do what I want to do."



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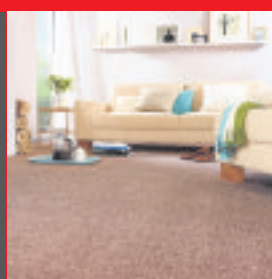
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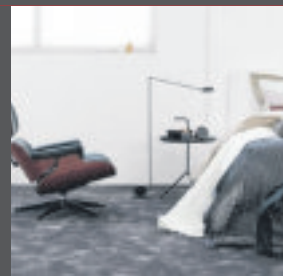
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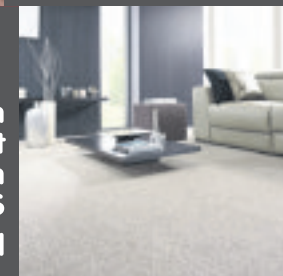
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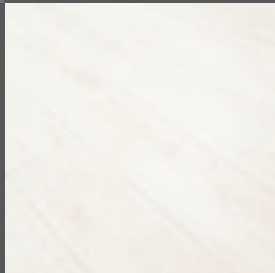
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A southbound freight in the area of the current excavations



A northbound freight passing the trolley hut



AiM excavating next to the Smestow Valley Path



AiM revealing the edge of the foundation



Wombourne signal box

# On track to unearth mystery foundations

OVER four weekends the local archaeology group Archaeology in Mind (AiM) are excavating intriguing foundations discovered at Tettenhall Station.

Fifty metres beyond the end of the platforms on what is now the Smestow Valley Path, a badger uncovered the corner of a concrete foundation, and the Tettenhall Transport Heritage Centre called in the group to help reveal what they might be.

Without disturbing the badgers, AiM began and discovered the base of what is clearly quite a large building.

Photographic evidence shows that the Permanent Way gang

## MEMORY LANE

Report by Alec Brew

who looked after the line, had several huts in the approximate area, including a large hut to house their trolleys, a large motorised trolley to carry sleepers and fencing and the like, and a smaller ganger's trolley.

### Different

The gang also had their own hut in which to take breaks, and there were two or three smaller ones.

Historically it is believed that, although there was never a signal box at Tettenhall Station like at Wombourne Station, the founda-

tions for one were laid. Will the excavations of AiM reveal that what the badgers discovered, was the foundations of a signal box or the ganger's huts, or something entirely different?

The line through Tettenhall only operated from 1925-65, and there was a passenger service for only the first seven years. The branch, which would have taken the line to Bridgnorth, was never built, and the line became one of the first of the Beeching cuts.

Within the Heritage Centre there is a 00 Gauge layout of the station, and curator, Alec Brew, says: "It would be nice to be able to make this corner of the layout exactly correct."



Dan Brew on his ganger's trolley in Wombourne Station



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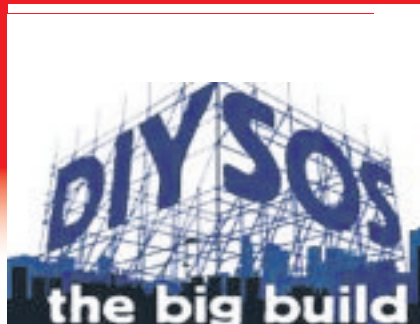
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# Homes plan fears lead to calls for site visit

**PLANNING** chiefs will visit the site of a controversial homes development before deciding whether to rubber-stamp the scheme.

Dudley Council's development control committee voted for a site visit at the land near to Dibdale Road and Salop Street, where 18 homes could be built.

Councillors were recommended to approve the proposals despite mounting opposition from concerned residents.

Patrick Timmins, representing opposition residents and business Blake's Sheds, said: "This is simply the wrong development in the wrong place."

## Concern

"If this development is given the go-ahead, it will turn a quiet backwater into a major thoroughfare."

Mr Timmins said a major concern was vehicle access from Salop Street used by Blake's Sheds articulated lorries to turn.

He said: "We are concerned that if this development gets the go-ahead, with increased numbers of residents living there, the proposed turning circle is totally inadequate given the

## By Annabal Bagdi

size of the lorries. It's an accident waiting to happen."

He added Blake's Sheds would suffer, with fears reduced access to the business will impact trade and put the company's team of eight at risk of job losses.

A total of 14 one-bedroom and four two-bedroom apartments will be constructed on the vacant site, near Papa Johns takeaway. Applicant Scott Brown said 25 per cent would be affordable housing, with 75 per cent available for those using Help to Buy schemes.

He said proposals were 'in line' with development policies, adding: "This land is not public open space. This is appropriate for residential development."

## Caring nurse Liz picks up top award



**Nurse Liz Jones and patient Alizah Pervaz, aged 19, who nominated her for the award**

A NURSE who helped a teenage girl through years of treatment for a skin disease has won a national award.

Liz Jones, a dermatology staff nurse with The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, was named Psoriasis Nurse of the Year 2018 after being nominated by her patient Alizah Pervaz.

Alizah, aged 19, from Stourbridge, put the nurse forward after she saw a poster from the British Dermatology Nursing Group asking for nominations.

The teenager had suffered with psoriasis over almost all of her body and used to have to attend Corbett Hospital three times a week. But she said nurse Liz was always a friendly face while she underwent treatment and ensured she understood everything.

On winning the award, Liz said: "It was a complete shock - I got an email from them one day saying I had won and I couldn't believe it."

# Teenage team-mates in attack on rival footballer

**TWO** Sunday League footballers involved in an attack on an opposition player have been spared immediate detention.

Jahn Chohan and Morgan McKenzie deliberately targeted 17-year-old Lewis Owen with just minutes to go as their team - Perrywoods United - were being beaten 5-2 by Kewford Eagles, of Kingswinford at Hadley Stadium, Smethwick, in a Sunday League clash on November 20, 2016, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The victim had two teeth driven into his gum and was stamped on. He now faces operations to replace two or three of his teeth at £2,000-a-time, said Mr Charles Hamer, prosecuting.

The defendants, 17 at the time, but now both 19, claimed that each acted in over-zealous self-defence but were each convicted of violent disorder after a trial. A third defendant was acquitted.

## Mistake

Mr Simon Phillips, defending Chohan, who was of previous good character, insisted: "He did not start this incident. He did not throw the first punch."

"This was a spur of the moment incident and completely out of character. He made a very huge mistake but this happened almost two years ago. He has done a lot of growing up since then."

Mr Charles Cronin, representing McKenzie, also with no previous conviction, said: "There was some confusion as to what actually led to this incident starting but it was not premeditated."

Chohan from Greenhill Road, and McKenzie of St Kenelms Avenue, both Halesowen were each given nine months detention at a Young Offenders Institution, suspended for 18 months, 150 hours unpaid work and £2,000 compensation order.

## Grounds for recognition



**Head Gardener Carl Stevens celebrates 35 service at Dudley Zoo**

A DUDLEY Zoo stalwart has been recognised for 35 years of service at the attraction.

Carl Stevens was just 17 when he took on the role of groundsman. Now aged 52, he worked his way up to the position of head gardener in 1994 - and has held the role since. He met his now wife of 15 years

Pat, head of primates, at work, and in July 1994 met The Queen.

Zoo bosses have commended the employee, who now leads a team of six, for his hard work and dedication to the grounds. To commemorate the milestone, the head gardener was presented gift vouchers by the zoo's director Derek Grove.



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## Foundry jobs boost in £10m investment

A NEW foundry is being built in Tipton as part of a £10 million investment by Dudley-based Thomas Dudley Group.

It is thought to be the first major foundry to be developed in the Black Country for many years and will mean a sizeable jobs boost for the area.

It is being constructed alongside an existing foundry on the Thomas Dudley Foundry site at Vaughan Trading Estate, Sedgley Road East. A new moulding line has just been installed at the former Dupont Foundry site, which was bought by the group in 2014.

The Tipton foundry and the 84-year-old castings foundry at the main Thomas Dudley site in Birmingham New Road were brought together as the Thomas Dudley Foundry division at the start of the year. Work on the new state-of-the-art foundry began last month.

The investment in the moulding line will increase manufacturing capacity by 50 per cent.

Additional work will include a new sand plant, with pouring/casting handling systems and a new extraction system. Next year work will start on providing dedicated finishing facilities including shot blast, core making, warehousing, a filtration plant, compressors and robotic fettling.

## Getting a kick from car wash fundraiser



Morgan, Mason, Ryan and Charlie with Amie Weaver

A GROUP of kickboxers are jetting off to Italy to represent their home country in the world championships.

Five students of AW Kickboxing Club, which has bases in Darlaston and Wednesbury, have made it through the British qualifiers and will compete against the rest of the globe in Rome in November.

To raise funds to get them there, the boys have been washing cars at Hurst Hill Primary School in Bilston. So far, along with other fundraising events, they have raised about £2,500.

Chief instructor Amie Weaver, aged 30, who has competed for her country in the past, said: "This is a huge achievement for us."

"I just want to say a big thank you to all the parents and team members who come down to support us."

The students who have qualified for the world championships are Ryan McQueen, aged 13, from Dudley; Mason Dunlavy, 13, from Wednesbury; Morgan McCart, 11, from West Bromwich; Charlie Bache, 10, from Dudley; and Harvey O'Grady, 11, from Darlaston.

## Hospice on lookout for new retail chief

MARY Stevens Hospice is recruiting for a new Head of Retail Operations.

The vacancy is the top job in the hospice's multi-million-pound trading company, which comprises the charity's 23 high street shops, its recycling centre, house clearance and furniture collection services, eBay shop and Bridgnorth boutique outlet.

Outgoing head Simon Henwood will continue his 17-year association with the hospice by moving across the organisation to head up its finance department.

Stevan Jackson, chief executive officer with Mary Stevens Hospice Group said: "We are searching for someone at the very top of their game, who will be able to come in and guide our retail provision into the future with creativity and confidence."

For the full job advert and specification, visit [www.marystevenshospice.co.uk/join-the-leadership-team](http://www.marystevenshospice.co.uk/join-the-leadership-team)

## Hostel meeting cut short as residents demand answers

**A HEATED meeting over plans for a men's hostel ended on a hostile note when it was cut short by 25 minutes.**

Around 100 angry residents grilled members of Expectations UK at Summerhill Community Centre in Coseley.

Tempers flared as crowds questioned Expectations UK's chairman of trustees Marc Blanchette over

plans to transform New Bridge House in Bayer Street, a former care home, into a hostel for men over 25 – excluding those with arson convictions or offences of a serious sexual nature. The application has been lodged with Dudley Council.

Questions and concerns were raised over the type of residents the hostel would accommodate and its location.

Mr Blanchette stressed the charity had a 'rigorous' process to vet those

they allowed into the hostel. But the meeting came to an abrupt finish after Mr Blanchette announced he would be taking no more questions 25 minutes ahead of the 7.30pm finish.

Angry residents demanded answers and crowded around him to ask further questions. Commotion spilled out onto the streets.

A petition has been signed by more than 2,000 people. Objections can be made until Monday.

## History of church to be celebrated

WORSHIPPERS will be celebrating the history of a Black Country church next month.

A special event will be held at Christ Church in Quarry Bank, Dudley, on Saturday September 15 from 10am until 4pm.

A wedding exhibition will celebrate the church's success with unions over the years.

This exhibit will show how weddings have transformed over the years.

The public is invited to go along to the event and take in the history of the building.

The church will also be holding a service on Sunday September 16 to give couples the chance to renew their wedding vows.

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Surfing is one of the most challenging water sports



Paddle boarding can be done at sea – or inland on rivers and lakes

# How to get fit in the sun while away from the gym

Report by Liz Connor

**OVER** the past few months, the UK has basked in what's set to be its hottest summer on record, with spectacularly long spells of uninterrupted blue skies and warm temperatures.

It's been fantastic news for your social life, but probably not so much for your waistline; the lure of the pub garden can easily mean that the gym (quite understandably) falls to the bottom of your priorities. After all, who wants to be cooped up in a hot and sweaty spinning studio when the good weather won't be here forever?

The good news is that if you're looking for a late summer fitness kick, it's really easy to stay active while also getting your fix of sunshine. From coast to countryside, there are plenty of pursuits that can tone your arms, strengthen your abs and clear your mental clutter.

Here are just a few family-friendly, al fresco activities to try...

## 1. Surfing

Surfing is one of the most physically challenging watersports out there, engaging your core and stabiliser muscles as you work to bend and balance on the board. "It's great for your heart," says Harris Rothschild, senior instructor at St Ives Surf School (stivesurfschool.co.uk). "Putting on your wet suit, running down the beach, paddling out into the surf and catching waves are all aerobic exercises that hugely benefit for your cardiovascular system." Because you're usually out on the waves for at least an hour, Harris says it tests your stamina and endurance, while sculpting your back, shoulder and leg muscles.

"Most notably for our students is that the fun of surfing and energy of the ocean combined give a tremendous sense of satisfaction and happiness," says Harris. Make a play for Cornwall, Scotland and Devon where you can catch the best swells in the UK.

## 2. Inline skating

There's something seriously addictive about rollerblading.

It's pretty good news for your figure too – all that lower-body power does wonders for your hamstrings, quadriceps and glutes, and it's easier on your joints compared with running. It's estimated that a 10-stone person can burn about 580 calories per hour of vigorous skating, meaning you won't be missing out on the weight loss benefits while putting your gym pass on ice.

## 3. Stand-up paddleboarding (SUP)

"SUP is a great low impact muscular endurance workout if the ocean is your thing," says Matt Harass, regional group exercise manager at Virgin Active (virginactive.co.uk). Developed when surfers in Hawaii began to use paddles to propel their surf boards, SUP is a relatively new sport that does exactly what it says on the tin: you stand on a board and push yourself forward with a single paddle.

"During a SUP session you'll be firing up most of the muscles, with the lower body and core contracting as you anchor to the board and paddle," says Harass. It's pretty good fun too: there isn't the fear of getting outrageously soaked or dismounted that comes with regular surfing, so it's perfect



Rock climbing is definitely at the more intense end of the activity scale and can be a real challenge for the body



Cycling is a great alternative for those who struggle with high impact activity



Rollerblading is good for burning calories

for people who are looking for a more serene way to enjoy the beach. It can also be done somewhere like the River Severn as well as in the sea.

## 4. Trail running

When the sun's shining, why not take yourself off the treadmill and on to a nature trail? "Natural landscapes offer a mosaic of horizons to stimulate your mind," says Ceri Rees, founder of Wild Running (wildrunning.co.uk). "It's impossible to run in mud and not have at least a grin on your face!"

Rees says a good trail run will force your body to recruit different muscles that you'll need to stabilise your core.

## 5. Cycling

"Whether it's on your daily commute or

spending your weekends cycling over mountains, this is a great way to exercise, get fit, get outdoors with your friends or family, and burn a huge amount of calories while increasing stamina," says Upton.

It's not a specialist skill, so anyone can give it a go, and it's relatively cheap – there's just a one-off payment on a bike to factor in. Upton says that cycling works the thighs and often arms hard, as well as being a great alternative for those who have joint troubles where high impact exercise can cause problems.

## 6. Rock climbing

There aren't many outdoor sports that will be as demanding on your body as rock climbing. "It can be a real challenge for the

body as every terrain, route and weather condition will be different for each climb," says Harass. "Research has shown that climbing requires significant aerobic capacity to maintain position on a rock face and anaerobic capacity for the climb."

It's a sport that you'll need to have a basic level of fitness and grip strength to start with, but it can pay dividends on your shoulders, legs, abs and even mental capacity. There are loads of places to give it a go – "more and more indoor rock climbing centres are popping up in cities and towns all over the world," says Upton.

"It's definitely at the more intense end of the activity scale – but try it and I'm sure you'll love it."

# Start student life on sound footing financially

IN just weeks from now, many young adults will be getting their first taste of financial freedom as they head off to university.

For many, it will be the first time they have lived away from the family home – meaning they'll have the new experience of bills to juggle and budgets to keep on top of.

While this may seem daunting it's also an opportunity to develop good money habits which could help you way beyond student life.

Here are some tips from Rachel Springall, a finance expert at Moneyfacts.co.uk, to get students started.

## 1. Pick a suitable student account

Starting off with a good bank account can help students over their years of study. Applying for a generous interest-free overdraft could be a lifeline, but you must be able to pay it back once you finish your education. As with any bank account, it's worth noting that the biggest overdraft limits are not a guarantee as applicants will be credit checked, so those with a bad credit history (such as mature students who may have had issues in the past) may want to improve their credit score first.

## 2. Budget carefully

By budgeting their way through their course and keeping a tight rein on spending, students will hopefully still be left with some money in their pockets at the end of the week to go shopping or socialising. Little changes such as making a coffee at home, or even lunch, can make a huge difference after just a few weeks.

## 3. Save the change

Each time students buy something they could save the change and watch their savings grow. For example, with Lloyds Bank, when customers are in credit, purchases may be rounded up to the nearest pound with the difference put into a separate account.

## 4. Make the most of apps to save

One of the free apps around that could help students save money without even thinking about it is Chip. The app works out how much money users could save and it will also go one step further and move this money into a separate account, so students are required to do very little to start saving.

## 5. Check your bank balance regularly while you're 'on the go'

Living away from home means overseeing daily expenses, so checking payments on the go using mobiles or tablets will be very practical. Students don't have to choose a bank that's nearby or on campus if they only need online access.

## 6. Stay up to date with your credit score

At some point, students may look to take out a student credit card, or get a mobile phone contract. There are various agencies to approach to check a credit score first, such as Experian, Equifax and Callcredit. Providers can ask one or more of these agencies for data to assess applicants, so it's important to check your credit score regularly with multiple brands.

## 7. Review utility bills

It's easy to be laid back when it comes to bills, but you should always be on the lookout for ways to save money by switching provider and not take their current offer at face value. It's also important for students to make sure their fellow housemates understand the monthly costs and the importance of paying bills on time.

## 8. Keep an NUS card handy

An NUS card gives students access to many places that offer discounts, so they should remember to keep it with them. When eating out, there may be even greater discounts, so students should consider this when searching for a place to eat.

## 9. Get a part-time job

Securing a part-time job can make all the difference for students hoping to build up some spending money. Getting a reference and starting a job will not only help students financially, but also introduce them to new people – helping to build up a social circle and get settled in.

## 10. Protect possessions with insurance

Consider taking out cover for gadgets and other contents just in case. It's quick and simple to get a quote online, and students can pick a plan that suits their needs so that it covers their valuable items.





# Mother's sorrow over losing 'beautiful' Ellie

THE mother of a 'sassy, loving' young woman has spoken of the profound effect on the family of her death after being thrown from the bonnet of a moving car.

Dawn Underhill's moving personal statement was read to the court before 19-year-old Luke Hickman, who had been at the wheel of the Corsa, was locked up for causing her death.

Three others were sentenced for their part in what Judge Paul Glenn called 'a cover-up' following the 'prank' that ended in tragedy on the Tesco Extra car park in Dudley.

Eleanor Underhill, aged 20, died from catastrophic head injuries in January last year, eight days after she fell. Her mother said: "Ellie grew up into a beautiful young woman who was not only our daughter but our best friend.

## Zest

"Her sense of fun, her laughter and her zest for life were infectious. She had a knack for making you smile.

"Whilst Ellie was very straight-talking, stubborn and sassy, she was also kind, loving and caring."

Mrs Underhill described how 2017 had been going to be a special year for the family. She and husband Shaun were marking their 30th wedding anniversary and Ellie should have been celebrating her 21st birthday.

The pharmacy assistant's health suffered and she had to take time off. Her husband endured sleepless nights and Ellie's brothers Luke and Ryan had also suffered badly.

The defendants were rebuked by the judge for not taking Ellie to hospital for over an hour and then not informing her family for several more hours



Ellie Underhill



Locked up - Luke Hickman



Ross Bingham, Elly Phillips and Hana Edwards were all sentenced

while they concocted lies about the circumstances surrounding her injuries.

Hickman, of Wassell Road, Wollescote, Stourbridge, admitted causing death by dangerous driving and dangerous driving. He was sentenced to seven years and 10 months in a young offender's institution. Elly Phillips, 19, of Seymour Road, Wollescote; Ross Bingham, 21, of Hag-

ley Road, Edgbaston admitted conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. Phillips was sentenced to six months in a young offender's institution and Bingham to four months. Hana Edwards, 19, of Grove Road, Wollescote, was given an 18-month community order and 150 hours of unpaid work after admitting perverting the course of justice.

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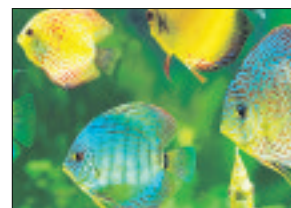
Shirley Aquatics was established in 1939 and has been at the forefront of the pond and aquarium industry nearly 80 years.

A company spokesman said: "We have always been a family-run business offering exceptional customer service and a quality-assured product range."

"There are no aspects of the fish-keeping hobby we do not cater for and we make sure that all our staff are kept up-to-date with the most recent developments in our industry."

"Our exceptional standards have been carried across to our reptile department which has grown tremendously over the last 10 years to become one of the region's most reputable reptile departments."

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and surpass them where ever we can. "We will always offer the highest level of assistance, the healthiest animals and the finest products ensuring your hobby is as rewarding as it can be."

Shirley Aquatics aims to offer unrivalled levels of customer service and knowledge, covering every aspect of the aquarium, pond and reptile hobbies.

They aim to provide extensive product availability and help you through each aspect of your new or existing hobby.

The spokesman added: "With decades of experience in aquatics and reptiles, keeping our pledge is to provide you with a professional and thorough service tailored to your needs."

To find out more visit Shirley Aquatics at Heath Farm, Alcester Road, Wythall, Bromsgrove, call 0121 744 1300 or see the website at www.shirleyaquatics.co.uk



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# Jail after dogs filmed attacking caged fox

**A MAN who filmed two dogs attacking a caged fox in his back garden has been jailed for 22 weeks.**

John Gough, from Brierley Hill, was banned from keeping animals for life after the 'horrific' footage was discovered on his phone.

At Birmingham Magistrates Court, Gough pleaded guilty to causing an animal fight between a dog and a fox, causing unnecessary suffering to a captive fox, and causing unnecessary suffering to a black terrier type dog. He denied a further charge of wilfully killing, injuring or taking a badger back in February 2017, which was later dropped. He had been caught by the police and the RSPCA.

## Distressed

The court heard how Gough used his mobile phone to video two dogs attacking a fox which had been trapped in a cage. He could be heard on the video encouraging the dogs to attack.

In another video clip the distressed animal is out of the cage and the dogs are seen to carry on the attack. Both incidents are said to have taken place at Gough's home address in Byron Street on or about May 16. It is not known what happened to the fox.

Officers searched Gough's home and seized his phone, finding the video showing the fox attack along with still images. A fox trap was also found along with equipment used when putting terriers down holes in the ground.

In his vehicle officers discovered two fox tails, a terrier box and shovels.

An officer from the RSPCA's Special Operations Unit, who investigated the case, said: "This was premeditated animal cruelty and both the fox and dog clearly suffered."



John Gough, from Brierley Hill. Picture courtesy of RSPCA

## Ready for business festival

PREPARATIONS for the 2019 Black Country Business Festival are in full swing, with a number of sponsorship deals already signed.

The festival, taking place from May 13-24, has been established by the Black Country Chamber of Commerce, needs sponsors and partners to make it happen.

Already, Black Country solicitors Talbots Law; accident repair centre

BodyKraft; and DY5 - Dudley's Business and Innovation Enterprise Zone - have signed up to be partners. Casino 36 is a sponsor and official supporters include Wolverhampton Racecourse, accountancy firm Crowe UK and Wolverhampton Grand Theatre.

For more information, visit [www.blackcountrybusinessfestival.com](http://www.blackcountrybusinessfestival.com), email [hello@blackcountrybusinessfestival.com](mailto:hello@blackcountrybusinessfestival.com) or call 01902 912304.

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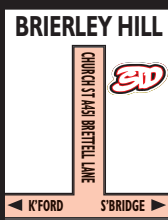
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# AT YOUR LEISURE

## Modfather set for date In the City

A year on from the 40th anniversary of The Jam's debut album, modfather Paul Weller is In the City – Birmingham that is – as he shows no signs of slowing down.

Weller, aged 60, released his 13th studio album A Kind of Revolution this year and announced a UK arena tour. He performs at The Genting Arena tomorrow (Friday) with support from Stone Foundation, whose latest album Street Rituals was produced by ... Paul Weller.

The concert kicks off a month of big name acts to perform in the second city.

This weekend sees successful R&B vocal group Boyz II Men in action, famed for the big hit End of the Road. Catch them at the O2 Academy on Saturday, followed by Grammy-award winning Justin Timberlake at the Arena Birmingham on Bank Holiday Monday, August 27.

Fellow former Disney Club star Britney Spears – joined by Pitbull – performs her final UK arena tour date of her #1 Las Vegas residency show at the Genting Arena on August 31.

Here Comes the Summer Son as Scottish alternative rock band Texas, led by Sharleen Spiteri, perform at the Symphony Hall on September 1 alongside special guests Imelda May and Ward Thomas as part of The MJR Group's Skyline Series.

The iconic Barry Manilow performs on September 4 at Arena Birmingham and Passenger the following night at the O2 Institute.

Chart-topper Jason Derulo has a date at Arena Birmingham on September 26.



MADE stars Chase & Status and Rage MC



Female rapper Stefflon Don

## Oh, What A Night ahead at theatre

Theatregoers can enjoy the sounds of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons as the hit musical The Jersey Boys returns to Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre.

It tells the true life story of four boys from the wrong side of the tracks who wrote their own songs, invented a unique sound, and sold 175 million records worldwide.

It will feature hit after legendary hit including Beggin', Can't Take My Eyes Off You, Oh, What A Night!, Sherry, Walk Like a Man, Rag Doll, Bye Bye Baby and Big Girls Don't Cry.

The show runs at the Lichfield Street venue from August 28 to September 8 at 7.30pm each night plus 2.30pm matinees on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Meanwhile, Move It, Move It to the New Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham to join Alex the lion, Marty the zebra, Melman the giraffe, Gloria the hippo and those plotting penguins as they bound onto the stage in the Madagascar the Musical.

Based on the smash-hit animated movie, it follows the group of friends as they escape from their home in New York's Central Park Zoo and find themselves on an unexpected journey to the madcap world of King Julien's Madagascar.

It runs until September 4 and arrives in Wolverhampton next May.

Matilda runs until September 8 at the Birmingham Hippodrome, while a smash-and-grab production – The Comedy About A Bank Robbery – runs at the city's Rep until September 8. It would be criminal to miss it!

# MADE for hip-hop

Chase & Status, Giggs, Andy C, Stefflon Don and more take centre stage at MADE For The Weekend in Birmingham.

Following the successful move to Perry Park and a sold-out MADE Festival, the two-day indoor event, on October 12 and 13, will see a massive line-up of hip hop, grime and bass all under one roof at the Genting Arena.

Other confirmed acts include Gorgon City, Pusha T, Maleek Berry, Preditah, Nasty C, My Nu Leng, Dread MC and SaSaSaS.

Proceedings kick off on October 12 with rapper Pusha T, president of Kanye West's GOOD Music label, who recently released new album Daytona. Grime artist Gigg, female

star Stefflon Don and homegrown Birmingham talent, the DJ and producer Preditah also take the stage, along with the British-Nigerian act Maleek Berry.

Chase & Status, best remembered for their 2009 top 10 hit End Credits, are among the illustrious line-up for the Saturday, alongside Andy C, who recently sold out Wembley Arena in three days.

Gorgon City bring their bass-infused Kingdom brand to the Genting Arena in a special extended DJ set. Bristol duo My Nu Leng featuring Dread MC also join the line-up, while SaSaSaS appear hot on the heels of a stellar performance at MADE Festival 2018.

There will be a back set from Bushbaby and Sammy Virji and Resonance Records head honcho Max Chapman will fly the flag for UK talent. House producer Eli Brown completes the existing set. More top names are likely to be announced.

MADE Festival director Pete Jordan said: "After the fifth year of MADE Festival summer edition and a 12,000 sell-out at Perry Park in July, we felt it was time to take the brand to the next level.

"We wanted to bring the extravaganza of the festival into an indoor setting, and in autumn when the UK festival season is well and truly over."

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## MINI FOOD FESTIVAL

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**Red House Glass Cone, Wordsley, will be holding its first Mini Food Festival and we'd love you to come along to show your support.**

There will be loads to see and do with family entertainment, craft studios will be open and workshops are being arranged. The Cone shop will also be open enabling visitors to buy unique keepsakes.

Food offerings include burgers, hotdogs, Thai, Italian and Indian. You'll also be able to enjoy a tippie (or two) including a Prosecco bar, beer and gin!



Musician George Ezra



## If it feels like Paradise you know it's George heading your way

Singer-songwriter George Ezra will be riding Shotgun into Birmingham's Genting Arena next year.

Fans of the Hertfordshire-born 25-year-old will be in Paradise as he performs on March 17 as part of a 10-date series of performances.

The announcement comes after Ezra, who topped the charts with Shotgun this summer – his

first number one – headlined Boardmasters Festival in Newquay, and ahead of a sold-out UK tour that begins in November.

Ezra followed up his debut album Wanted On Voyage – the third best-selling album of the year in the UK in 2014 – with this year's offering Staying At Tamara's, which is officially the biggest-selling album so far this year. It remains in the top five of the Official Albums Chart 20 weeks after

release. This year Ezra appeared the Forest Live concerts on Cannock Chase, one of three headline acts alongside Paul Heaton & Jacqui Abbott and Paloma Faith.

Ezra first rose to prominence four years ago with the release of the hit single Budapest.

He is best known for other hit singles such as Blame it on Me, Listen to the Man, Barcelona, Cassie O and Don't Matter Now.

## No ordinary Joe! Comic marks 30th anniversary

Joe Pasquale burst on to our television screens 30 years ago on ITV's New Faces – and doesn't seem to have been away ever since.

A winner of I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here, the squeaky-voiced comic is on his 30th anniversary tour A Few Of His Favourite Things; billed as 'a celebration of his best cack, plus some surprises on the way'.

A regular in recent years at the Grand Theatre's pantomime, he returns to the Lichfield Street venue on September 12, from 6.30pm, with tickets starting at £14.

The legendary comedian Kevin Hart has been pretty busy since the last time he ended up in Birmingham with his sell-out 'What Now' tour. His

memoir I Can't Make This Up: Life Lessons debuted at Number One on the New York Times Bestseller list, he voiced Captain Underpants in its first movie and appeared in the Jumanji reboot starring Jack Black and Dwayne Johnson.

He is back in the Midlands at Arena Birmingham on August 30, from 7pm, on 'The Kevin Hart Irresponsible Tour'.

The voice of Love Island, comedian Iain Stirling is also in Birmingham, appearing at the Rep on September 7, exploring dinner party etiquette, feminism and the pressures on a generation brought up in a world of instant gratification, while George Egg brings his DIY Chef show to the Old Rep on September 8 from 7.30pm.



Joe Pasquale

## Mysterious play Meek to take centre stage

Penelope Skinner's mysterious new play, Meek, is being staged at Birmingham Repertory Theatre from September 4-8, following its premiere at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe this month.

Described as a haunting vision of ruthless state control, tense friendships and one woman's determination not to be broken, Meek is a tale which reflects on fraught times.

In a society where private lives become political and freedom of expression is not an option, Irene finds herself imprisoned but as tales of her incarceration spread she is forced to make a brutal decision.

Award-winning writer Skinner is recognised as one of the UK's leading voices in contemporary theatre. She says: "On a small scale, it is a story about friendship, faith, shame and betrayal. On a wider scale, it is about the ways in which spirituality can be co-opted for political gain, and the impact of that on our personal freedoms. It is also a play about love."

Directed by Amy Hodge, the cast includes Scarlett Brookes, Shvorne Marks and Amanda Wright.

## Live bands after racing an odds-on winner

Ocean Colour Scene and Kaiser Chiefs will entertain punters at the end of a day's racing at Wolverhampton. The Dunstall Park course is putting on two nights of post-racing music, with Birmingham-based Ocean Colour Scene kicking proceedings on August 31. The band have produced five top 10 albums, including Moseley Shoals and the number one Marchin' Already in 1997. Top 40 hits include The Circle, The Day We Caught the Train and Riverboat Song.

They take to the stage after a seven-race card from 7.30pm.

The Brit award-winning Kaiser Chiefs, led by Ricky Wilson, follow the next night, which doubles as Ladies Day at the racetrack. The Leeds band's six studio albums, including the Ivor Novello and NME award-winning Employment have spawned a string of hits, among them I Predict A Riot, Oh My God, Never Miss A Beat and the number one Ruby.

After the jockeys have weighed in for the final time on the card at 5.10pm, Kaiser Chiefs take the stage at 6.10pm.

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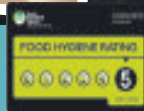
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## CHOICE



Katie Derham

### Proms Extra (BBC2, 6.50pm)

The programme moves into the Royal Albert Hall for one night as an expectant audience gathers to hear Bernstein's On the Town. Katie Derham and guests discuss Mozart's Clarinet Concerto, Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsodies and a world premiere by singer-songwriter Laura Mvula. David Owen Norris offers another Chord of the Week and there is a performance by Chineke!

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nadiya's Family Favourites. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Catalans Dragons v Warrington Wolves (Kick-off 3.00pm). **5.30 Film:** Shrek Forever After. (2010)  
**6.55 BBC News.**  
**7.05 Regional Programme.**  
**7.15 Impossible Celebrities.** Dick and Dom are among the 18 celebrities playing for charity in the quiz. Rick Edwards hosts.  
**8.05 Pointless Celebrities.** Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman challenge more famous faces to take part in the unorthodox quiz show. This time, all the contestants are veterans of various TV talent shows or reality contests. MasterChef 2015 winner Simon Wood teams up with his 2016 successor Jane Devonshire, while Lee McQueen, who won the fourth series of The Apprentice, joins forces with Yasmine Siatdani, the ambitious businesswoman who followed him in 2009. Plus, X Factor 2013 champion Sam Bailey throws her lot in with Pop Idol series two star Michelle McManus, and Britain's Got Talent-winning street dancer George Sampson bands together with singer and one-time Celebrity Big Brother star Jermaine Jackson. (R)  
**8.50 Casuality.** Wanting to keep busy, Alicia arrives back at work in the ED earlier than expected, and Connie gives her the job of medical lead for the day. OAPs Joseph and Reggie decide to sneak out of their care home and make their way to a diner looking forward to a full English breakfast, but just as they arrive, Reggie collapses and an ambulance is called. Louise is ready to give Dylan a piece of her mind about bringing on a CQC investigation, until she learns that he is going to clean out Sam's locker later on.  
**9.40 Mrs Brown's Boys.** Agnes turns to the internet to find a date for Valentine's Day. (R)  
**10.10 BBC News:** Weather.; National Lottery Update.  
**10.30 Match of the Day.**  
**11.50 Film: Reasonable Doubt.** (2014)  
**1.10** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.15** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.40** Top Class. (R) **7.10** Marrying Mum and Dad. (R) **7.40** Officially Amazing Goes Bunkers. (R) **8.10** The Dengineers. (R) **8.35** Deadly Dinosaurs with Steve Backshall. (R) **9.05** David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. (R) **9.30** Nature's Miracle Babies. (R) **10.30** Killer Whales: Beneath the Surface – Natural World. (R) **11.15** Rugby League's Legendary Watersplash Final. (R) **12.00** Nigel Slater: Eating Together. (R) **12.30** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00** Great British Menu. (R) **1.30** Garden Rescue. (R) **2.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.00** Scrappers. (R) **3.30** Saving Lives at Sea. (R) **4.30** Final Score. **5.15** Flog It! (R) **5.50** A Passage to Britain. (R)  
**6.50 Proms Extra.** The programme moves into the Royal Albert Hall for one night as an expectant audience gathers to hear Bernstein's On the Town. Presented by Katie Derham.  
**7.30 Dad's Army.** The platoon plans to re-enact the battle between St George and the dragon as part of the Wings for Victory fundraising effort – unaware the ARP wardens have the same idea. (R)  
**8.00 Blitz: The Bombs That Changed Britain.** The deadly impact of an incendiary bomb that set fire to St Peter's Church in the historic heart of Bristol on the night of Sunday November 24, 1940. Last in the series. (R)  
**9.00 QI XL.** Sandi Toksvig invites Jason Manford, Sara Pascoe, Jeremy Clarkson and Alan Davies to answer questions on the subject of 'noble rot' in an extended edition of the panel show. (R)  
**9.50 Anita & Me – and Me.** Meera Syal journeys back to Essington in the Black Country, the mining village where she grew up, describing how her childhood inspired her coming-of-age novel Anita and Me. The film Anita & Me follows.  
**9.55 Film: Anita & Me.** (2002) Two girls from different ethnic backgrounds strike up an unlikely friendship during the 1970s. Comedy drama based on Meera Syal's novel, starring Chandeepp Uppal and Anna Brewster.  
**11.25 Film: Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara.** (2011) A groom-to-be takes his two friends on a road trip to Spain, participating in extreme sports along the way. Comedy, starring Abhay Deol, Hrithik Roshan and Farhan Akhtar.  
**1.50** This Is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00** CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Make It Pop. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Om Nom Stories. **6.55** The Oddbods Show. (R) **7.05** NinjaGo. Decoded. (R) **7.15** NinjaGo. Decoded. (R) **7.30** ToonMarty. (R) **7.40** ToonMarty. (R) **7.55** Drop Dead Weird. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Saturday. **9.25** James Martin's Saturday Morning. (R) **11.20** James Martin's American Adventure. (R) **11.50** £10k Holiday Home. (R) **12.20** Love Your Garden. (R) **1.20** TV News: Weather. **1.30** ITV Racing Live: York Ebor Festival. The fourth and final day of the festival.  
**4.00** The Chase. (R) **5.00** WOS Wrestling.  
**6.00** ITV News: Weather.  
**6.15 Regional Programme:** Weather.  
**6.30 Japandemonium.** A final helping of the strangest Japanese TV, showcasing some of the maddest and funniest moments ever broadcast. This edition features the game of Candy or not Candy – where contestants bite objects to find out – chopsticks bungee jumping, and extreme pans being dropped on the head. Narrated by Melvin Odoom. Last in the series.  
**7.00 Big Star's Little Star.** Stephen Mulhern hosts the entertainment show in which children spill the beans about famous relatives James Cracknell, Karen Black and Vernie Bennett, talking about their home lives, making heart-warming revelations or telling downright embarrassing stories. The contestants are all hoping to win as much money as possible for their chosen charities.  
**8.00 Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King.** (2003) As hobbits Frodo and Sam near the end of their journey into the dark lands of Mordor to destroy the One Ring, the evil Sauron unleashes the full might of his armies on Middle-earth. Meanwhile, Aragorn must fulfil his destiny of becoming king by leading his people into a climactic battle with the forces of darkness. Conclusion of the fantasy adventure trilogy, starring Elijah Wood, Viggo Mortensen, Ian McKellen and Sean Astin.  
**11.45** ITV News: Weather.  
**12.05** WOS Wrestling. (R) **1.00** Jackie247. Interactive gaming.  
**3.00** Eternal Glory. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service.

## CHANNEL 4

**6.15** Triathlon: Long Course Weekend. **7.10** Mobil 1: The Grid. **7.35** Frasier. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **9.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **9.55** The Simpsons. (R) **10.25** The Simpsons. (R) **10.55** Formula 1 Belgian Grand Prix Practice 3 Live. Coverage of the third practice session at Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps. **12.25** F1 Meets Nigel Mansell. (R) **12.55** Formula 1 Belgian Grand Prix Qualifying Live. Coverage of the qualifying session at Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps (Start-time 2.00pm). **3.45** Car SOS. (R) **4.45** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **5.15** The People's Vet.  
**6.10 Escape to the Chateau: DIY.** As Jonathan and Michael prepare their chateau for the big wedding, they have a sewage problem that threatens to take the whole first floor out of action. (R)  
**7.05 Channel 4 News.**  
**7.35 Film: Captain America: The First Avenger.** (2011) A puny but brave volunteer is rejected for military service during the Second World War. He becomes the test subject for an experiment that transforms him into the ultimate soldier, and battles against a secret Nazi society plotting to harness the powers of a mystical artefact. Superhero adventure, with Chris Evans, Hugo Weaving, Hayley Atwell and Tommy Lee Jones.  
**10.00 Film: Pain & Gain.** (2013) Premiere. Three bodybuilders make a disastrous attempt to kidnap a businessman and get him to sign over his fortune. Fact-based action comedy, with Mark Wahlberg and Dwayne Johnson.  
**12.30 Film: Regression.** (2015) A detective finds evidence of a satanic cult when investigating a case in which a man admits to sexually abusing his teenage daughter. Thriller, starring Ethan Hawke. **2.20** Holyoaks. Omnibus. Simone arrives at Price Slice to find it has been broken into, Darren and Mandy's affair continues as they end up kissing, and Dennis and Liberty decide Milo should leave. (R) **4.30** Village of the Year with Penelope Keith. On the Devon coast, Penelope learns about Beer's historic fishing fleet, while Alex Langlands goes native in the Welsh village of Llanyllynfi. (R) **5.25** The Posh Frock Shop. A former prima ballerina seeks a dress for a VIP event. (R) **5.50** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. Kirstie Allsopp creates a kitchen-diner makeover. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **9.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.55** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** Access. **10.40** Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 4. (R) **11.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.10** Nightmarer Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **3.10** Nightmarer Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **4.10** Rich House, Poor House. (R) **5.10** 5 News Weekend. **5.15** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R)  
**6.10 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!** In South East London, officers Gary and Cona chase a debt of nearly £50,000 in unpaid rent, leading to a feisty confrontation with the debtor. Elsewhere, agents Gary and Paul try to recover over £2,000 owed by a teenager to a local garage in Kent, and officers Max and Paul head to South West London on the trail of a film producer who owes £8,000 to financial advisers. (R)  
**7.05 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!** Mike Allonby and Terry Jones repossess debtors' cars in Cheshire and Liverpool, while Paul Bohill and Steve Pinner evict a couple with young children a few days before Christmas. (R)  
**8.00 Before They Were Stars.** A trek back through the TV archive to uncover embarrassing early brushes with fame endured by some of today's biggest stars. Among those skewered are pop stars, rock legends, silver-screen icons, celebrated comedians and sporting heroes.  
**9.00 Gino's Win Your Wish List.** Gino D'Acampo hosts the game show in which a family of five contestants choose their dream prizes, then in pairs answer questions to try to bank the items on their wish list. In the final round, two players try to secure all the prizes they have won so far – as well as a family holiday.  
**10.00 Celebrity Big Brother.** Highlights of the housemates' past 24 hours under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, as they try to get used to living alongside one another.  
**11.05 Best of Bad TV: Live & Dangerous.** A collection of the biggest TV howlers caught on film, including a fire on the Blue Peter set, famous folk who think they can sing, wardrobe malfunctions and disastrous award shows. (R)  
**12.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** The Last Hours of Jimi Hendrix. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Elsa the Lioness **7.30** BBC Proms 2018 **9.50** West Side Stories – The Making of a Classic **10.50** Leonard Bernstein at the BBC **11.50** Top of the Pops: 1986 **12.20** Heavy Metal Britannia **1.50** Goth at the BBC **2.50** West Side Stories – The Making of a Classic **3.50** Close  
**ITV2**  
**12.00** Catchphrase **12.40** You've Been Framed! **Gold 1.40** Film: The Flintstones (1994) **2.50** FYI Daily **2.55** Film: The Flintstones (1994) **3.30** Film: Spy Kids (2001) **4.30** FYI Daily **4.35** Film: Spy Kids (2001) **5.25** Film: Star Wars: Episode V – The Empire Strikes Back (1980) **6.25** FYI Daily **6.30** Film: Star Wars: Episode V – The Empire Strikes Back (1980) **8.00** Film: The Mask (1994) **10.50** Family Guy **11.05** American Dad! **11.55** The Cleveland Show **12.55** Film: Hercules (2014) **1.55** FYI Daily **2.00** Film: Hercules (2014) **2.45** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.55** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen  
**ITV3**  
**3.05** Film: Carry On Cruising (1962) **4.55** A Touch of Frost **7.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** Endeavour **11.00** Vera **1.00** On the Buses **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping  
**ITV4**  
**2.05** Storage Wars **3.05** Film: Cahill, US Marshal (1973) **4.05** FYI Daily **4.10** Film: Cahill, US Marshal (1973) **5.10** Film: The Sting (1973) **6.10** FYI Daily **6.15** Film: The Sting (1973) **7.45** Film: Cannonball Run II (1984) **8.45** FYI Daily **8.50** Film: Cannonball Run II (1984) **10.00** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **11.00** Film: Jaws (1975) **12.05** FYI Daily **12.10** Film: Jaws (1975) **1.30** Better Late Than Never **2.30** World Cup Rivalries: Brazil v Italy **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping  
**E4**  
**11.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **12.00** Film: Volcano (1997) **2.05** Rudelish) Tube Shorts **2.15** The Big Bang Theory **6.45** Film: Super 8 (2011) **9.00** Film: Prometheus (2012) **11.25** Gogglebox **1.35** Tattoo Fixers **2.40** Rude Tube: Love Bytes **3.35** Gogglebox **4.25** Rude(ish) Tube **5.10** How I Met Your Mother  
**Film4**  
**11.00** Carry On Cabby (1963) **12.50** Robots (2005) **2.30** Night at the Museum (2006) **4.45** Cheaper By the Dozen 2 (2005) **6.40** Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein (1940) **11.20** Bone Tomahawk (2015) **1.55** The Man with the Iron Fists (2012) **3.50** Close

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CHOICE	BBC1	BBC2	ITV	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5	DIGITAL
<div></div> <div>Keeley Hawes</div> <div><b>Bodyguard (BBC1, 9pm)</b> New series. A specialist protection officer is assigned to guard an ambitious home secretary who may be the target of a terror plot following her support of a controversial new surveillance bill. The bodyguard's experiences in the army have left him harbouring deep-seated resentments - which may make him a threat to the politician he is supposed to protect. Thriller, with Richard Madden, Keeley Hawes, Sophie Rundle, Pippa Haywood, Paul Ready, Nicholas Gleaves, Tom Brooke and Vincent Franklin.</div>	<div><b>6.00</b> Breakfast. <b>9.00</b> Match of the Day. (R) <b>10.25</b> Sunday Morning Live. <b>11.25</b> Homes Under the Hammer. (R) <b>12.00</b> Bargain Hunt. (R) <b>1.00</b> BBC News. Weather. <b>1.15</b> Still Open All Hours. (R) <b>1.45</b> Hold the Sunset. (R) <b>2.15</b> Money for Nothing. (R) <b>3.30</b> Escape to the Country. (R) <b>3.30</b> Songs of Praise. <b>4.05</b> Fake or Fortune? (R) <b>5.05</b> Eat Well for Less? (R)</div> <div><b>6.05 The Deer Stalker: Our Lives.</b> Documentary following a man who stalks red deer in the hills near Fort William as he passes on his skills to his 15-year-old son during one of Scotland's worst winters.</div> <div><b>6.35 BBC News.</b></div> <div><b>6.50 Regional Programme.</b></div> <div><b>7.00 Countryfile.</b> Matt Baker and Margherita Taylor present the show from North Wales, discovering how miniature antennas attached to bees have revealed new information about the insects' lives. Plus, Margherita joins dementia patients and their carers in a trip on the Blaenau Ffestiniog railway. Adam Henson investigates new developments in cattle farming, and John Craven is joined by judges Cerys Matthews and Simon King to announce the final 12 in this year's photographic competition.</div> <div><b>8.00 Fake or Fortune?</b> Fiona Bruce and Philip Mould investigate a small watercolour sketch found in a hoard of artwork stolen by the Nazis, that could be the work of sculptor Henry Moore.</div> <div><b>9.00 Bodyguard.</b> New series. A specialist protection officer is assigned to guard an ambitious home secretary who may be the target of a terror plot. Thriller, with Keeley Hawes and Richard Madden.</div> <div><b>10.00 BBC News.</b></div> <div><b>10.20 Regional Programme.</b></div> <div><b>10.30 Match of the Day 2.</b> Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, introducing highlights of Watford v Crystal Palace and Newcastle United v Chelsea.</div> <div><b>11.30 Supermarket Shopping Secrets.</b> A look at how the retailers compete in the market for healthier foods. (R)</div> <div><b>12.30</b> Weather for the Week Ahead. <b>12.35</b> BBC News.</div>	<div><b>6.30</b> Around the World in 80 Gardens. (R) <b>7.30</b> Gardeners' World. (R) <b>8.30</b> Countryfile Live. (R) <b>9.30</b> The Beechgrove Garden. (R) <b>10.00</b> Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. <b>11.30</b> Great British Menu. (R) <b>12.00</b> Great British Menu. (R) <b>12.30</b> Great British Menu. (R) <b>1.00</b> Hairys Bikers' Best of British. (R) <b>1.45</b> Triathlon World Series: Montreal Women's Race. <b>3.15</b> Westerners. (R) <b>4.10</b> Saving Lives at Sea. (R) <b>5.10</b> Tribes, Predators &amp; Me. (R)</div> <div><b>6.10 Film: Raiders of the Lost Ark.</b> (1981) Intrepid archaeologist Indiana Jones goes in search of the legendary Ark of the Covenant, a biblical artefact of devastating power. His quest leads him to Egypt, where the Nazis are plotting to use the Ark to further Hitler's plans for world domination – aided by Jones's deceitful French rival. Steven Spielberg's action adventure, with Harrison Ford, Karen Allen, Paul Freeman and John Rhys-Davies.</div> <div><b>8.00 Dragons' Den.</b> The panel of entrepreneurs assess the profit-making potential of a range of fishing bait, a pasta home delivery service, and a scheme to make money out of rubbish. With Evan Davis.</div> <div><b>9.00 Eight Go Rallying: The Road to Saigon.</b> The teams head for the Cambodian border, despite serious problems with two of the cars, and head for Angkor Wat, the mysterious centrepiece of the ancient Khmer empire.</div> <div><b>10.00 Romesh Ranganathan: Irrational Live.</b> The comedian's first-ever live stand-up show, in which the Baffa-nominated star takes shots at everyone from his children to a stranger in a coffee shop. (R)</div> <div><b>11.00 Man Like Moheen.</b> Eight learns that his father is dying. When Moheen agrees to visit him one last time, he is unprepared for the terrible secret he learns and the favour the old man has to ask. (R)</div> <div><b>11.20 Man Like Moheen.</b> An anti-Islam march comes through the neighbourhood, and Moheen ends up sharing a police van with the leader when he takes the blame for Aks' counter-protest. Last in the series. (R)</div> <div><b>11.45 Pump Up the Bhangra: The Sound of Asian Britain.</b> (R)</div> <div><b>12.45</b> Sign Zone: Countryfile Live. (R) <b>1.40</b> Holby City. (R) <b>2.40</b> This Is BBC Two.</div>	<div><b>6.00</b> CITV: Sooty. <b>6.10</b> Make It Pop. (R) <b>6.35</b> Dino Dana. (R) <b>6.50</b> Om Nom Stories. <b>6.55</b> The Oddbods Show. (R) <b>7.05</b> NinjaGo: Decoded. (R) <b>7.15</b> NinjaGo: Decoded. (R) <b>7.30</b> ToonMarty. (R) <b>7.40</b> ToonMarty. (R) <b>7.55</b> Drop Dead Weird. <b>8.25</b> ITV News. <b>8.30</b> Zoe Ball on Sunday. <b>9.25</b> Japandemonium. (R) <b>9.55</b> Cannonball. (R) <b>10.55</b> Ninja Warrior UK. (R) <b>12.00</b> WOS Wrestling. (R) <b>1.00</b> ITV News. Weather. <b>1.15</b> Big Star's Little Star. (R) <b>2.15</b> Catchphrase. (R) <b>3.00</b> Tenable. (R) <b>4.00</b> Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. (R) <b>5.00</b> The Chase. (R)</div> <div><b>6.00 ITV News: Weather.</b></div> <div><b>6.15 Regional Programme: Weather.</b></div> <div><b>6.30 Paul O'Grady's Little Heroes.</b> Paul meets 11-year-old Fazeel, who was born with a genetic condition that causes his skin to blister at the slightest touch. Elsewhere, Paul also meets 10-year-old Aleksandra, as she undergoes pioneering craniofacial surgery to repair her cheekbone that has been damaged by cancer, and four-year-old Fahem, who needs a kidney transplant. (R)</div> <div><b>7.00 The Chase: The Bloopers.</b> Bradley Walsh presents a compilation of outtakes and laughs from the quiz show, featuring regular chasers the Governess, the Beast, the Vixen, the Sinnerman and the Dark Destroyer. (R)</div> <div><b>8.00 Film: Jurassic World.</b> (2015) Decades on from its first creation, Jurassic Park is now a fully operational attraction filled with genetically engineered dinosaurs. In need of a new attraction, the company behind the park creates an entirely new species – but it quickly escapes to terrorise the tourists. Action adventure sequel, starring Chris Pratt and Bryce Dallas Howard.</div> <div><b>10.20 ITV News: Weather.</b></div> <div><b>10.35 Larry Grayson: Shut That Door!</b> Documentary exploring the entertainer's rise from poverty to fame, drawing on extracts from an unfinished autobiography that has only recently been discovered. (R)</div> <div><b>12.20</b> Jackpot247. Interactive gaming. <b>3.00</b> Motorspot UK. Highlights from Snetterton. (R) <b>3.50</b> British Superbike Championship Highlights. Greg Haines presents action from round eight at Cadwell Park. (R) <b>4.40</b> ITV Nightscreen. <b>5.05</b> The Jeremy Kyle Show. Guests air their differences. (R)</div>	<div><b>6.05</b> Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. (R) <b>6.10</b> Motorsport: Volkswagen Racing Cup32. <b>6.35</b> Motorsport: British Rally Championship. <b>7.05</b> Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) <b>7.30</b> Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) <b>8.00</b> Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) <b>8.30</b> Para Swimming: European Championships. <b>9.30</b> Sunday Brunch. <b>12.30</b> Peng Life. (R) <b>1.00</b> Formula 1 Belgian Grand Prix Live Build Up. Steve Jones presents a preview of the 13th round of the season. <b>1.40</b> Formula 1 Belgian Grand Prix Live. Coverage of the 13th round of the season (Start-time 2.00pm). <b>4.30</b> Formula 1 Belgian Grand Prix Live Reaction. Reaction to the 13th round of the season. <b>5.35</b> Car SOS. (R)</div> <div><b>6.30 Channel 4 News.</b></div> <div><b>7.00 Flying Across Britain with Arthur Williams.</b> Arthur's final journey takes him across the east coast, visiting a series of airfields that played a vital role in the Second World War. He gets a look at the US Air Force's F15 fighter, visits the world's oldest and grandest air academy and gets the chance to take a flight with the only aerobatic team in existence that is licensed to take passengers. Last in the series.</div> <div><b>8.00 Hidden Britain by Drone.</b> Tony Robinson sends camera drones to shoot more aerial footage of areas of Britain that are off limits to the public, including a nuclear decommissioning site that is still in active use and has appropriately tight security. Plus, cameras catch footage of bats up close and reveal the truth behind crop circles. Last in the series.</div> <div><b>9.00 Film: World War Z.</b> (2013) Premiere. A virus sweeps across the globe, turning everyone infected into mindless, ravening zombies. As entire countries fall into chaos, a United Nations investigator sets off on a journey around the world to discover the cause of the pandemic and hopefully find a cure before human civilisation is brought to an end. Thriller based on the novel by Max Brooks, starring Brad Pitt.</div> <div><b>11.15 Film: 47 Ronin.</b> (2013) A former slave leads a band of samurai as they battle monstrous and magical enemies in a quest for redemption. Fantasy adventure, with Keanu Reeves and Hiroyuki Sanada.</div> <div><b>1.30</b> The Crystal Maze. (R) <b>2.25</b> Mobil 1: The Grid. (R) <b>2.50</b> Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R) <b>3.45</b> French Collection. (R)</div>	<div><b>6.00</b> Milkshake!: Little Princess. <b>6.10</b> Wissper. (R) <b>6.20</b> Poppy Cat. (R) <b>6.30</b> Milkshake! Monkey. (R) <b>6.35</b> The Secret Life of Puppies. (R) <b>6.40</b> Seaside Antics. (R) <b>6.45</b> Only the Little White Van. (R) <b>6.50</b> Simon. (R) <b>7.00</b> Peppa Pig. (R) <b>7.05</b> Paw Patrol. (R) <b>7.15</b> Thomas &amp; Friends: Thrills and Spills. (R) <b>7.30</b> Fireman Sam. (R) <b>7.45</b> Rusty Rivets. <b>8.00</b> Paw Patrol. (R) <b>8.15</b> Pirata &amp; Capitano. <b>8.30</b> Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) <b>8.50</b> Floogals. (R) <b>9.00</b> Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) <b>9.15</b> Shimmer and Shine. (R) <b>9.30</b> Digby Dragon. (R) <b>9.50</b> Peppa Pig. (R) <b>9.55</b> Peppa Pig. (R) <b>10.00</b> Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) <b>10.35</b> Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) <b>10.55</b> Police Interceptors. (R) <b>11.45</b> Police Interceptors. (R) <b>12.40</b> Police Interceptors. (R) <b>1.40</b> Film: The Prince of Egypt. (1998) Animated Biblical musical, with the voice of Val Kilmer. <b>2.40</b> Access. <b>2.45</b> Film: The Prince of Egypt. (1998) Concluded. <b>3.50</b> Film: Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End. (2007) Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Johnny Depp. <b>4.50</b> 5 News Update. <b>4.55</b> Film: Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End. (2007) Concluded.</div> <div><b>7.00 Worst Celebrity Pop Songs Ever.</b> A countdown of the 40 most memorable musical efforts by celebrities who have decided to diversity into music. The programme features performances by Mr T, Katie Price, Vinnie Jones, Sam Fox, Eddie "The Eagle" Edwards, David Hasselhoff, an assortment of soap stars and Christopher Lee, who embarked on a second career as a heavy-metal singer in his '80s. (R)</div> <div><b>8.55 5 News Weekend.</b></div> <div><b>9.00 Celebrity Big Brother.</b> The ups and downs of life in the BB house as friendships and alliances are made, battle lines are drawn and arguments erupt.</div> <div><b>10.00 Film: The Bodyguard.</b> (1992) A former secret service agent acts as a bodyguard for a famous singer who is being persecuted by an obsessed fan. Romantic thriller, starring Kevin Costner and Whitney Houston.</div> <div><b>11.00 Access.</b></div> <div><b>11.05 Film: The Bodyguard.</b> (1992) Concluded.</div> <div><b>12.35 Film: Whitney Houston: A Tragic Love.</b> (2015) <b>2.10</b> SuperCasino. <b>3.10</b> Frozen: Cryonics. (R) <b>4.00</b> My Mum's Hotter Than Me! (R)</div>	<div><b>BBC Four</b></div> <div><b>7.00</b> Simon Rattle: The Making of a Maestro <b>8.00</b> BBC Proms 2018 <b>10.00</b> Arena <b>11.00</b> Chuck Berry in Concert <b>12.00</b> Sing's Stevie Wonder <b>1.00</b> Sex, Chips and Poetry: 50 Years of The Mersey Sound <b>2.00</b> The Secret Life of Landfill: A Rubbish History <b>3.30</b> Close</div> <div><b>ITV2</b></div> <div><b>12.35</b> Ninja Warrior UK <b>1.35</b> You've Been Framed! Gold <b>2.40</b> Film: The Smurfs 2 (2013) <b>3.40</b> FYI Daily <b>3.45</b> Film: The Smurfs 2 (2013) <b>4.45</b> Film: Star Wars: Episode VI – Return of the Jedi (1983) <b>5.50</b> FYI Daily <b>5.55</b> Film: Star Wars: Episode VI – Return of the Jedi (1983) <b>7.30</b> Film: Rock of Ages (2012) <b>10.00</b> Family Guy <b>11.25</b> American Dad! <b>12.25</b> The Cleveland Show <b>12.50</b> Ghosted <b>1.20</b> Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records: Bonkingly Big Hits <b>2.10</b> Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records <b>2.20</b> Teleshopping <b>5.50</b> ITV2 Nightscreen</div> <div><b>ITV3</b></div> <div><b>5.00</b> Lewis <b>7.00</b> Agatha Christie's Marple <b>9.00</b> Midsummer Murders <b>11.00</b> Wire in the Blood <b>12.35</b> Princess Diana: A Life After Death <b>1.35</b> A Touch of Frost <b>3.20</b> Road to Avonlea <b>5.05</b> Judge Judy <b>5.25</b> ITV3 Nightscreen</div> <div><b>ITV4</b></div> <div><b>11.00</b> Life British Touring Car Championship. Round eight. <b>6.15</b> Barcelona's European Glory <b>6.30</b> Pawn Stars <b>7.00</b> Cycling: Vuelta a Espana <b>8.00</b> River Monsters <b>9.00</b> Film: The Specialist (1994) <b>10.05</b> FYI Daily <b>10.10</b> Film: The Specialist (1994) <b>11.15</b> Film: Cannonball Run II (1984) <b>12.15</b> FYI Daily <b>12.20</b> Film: Cannonball Run II (1984) <b>1.30</b> Minder <b>2.30</b> Football's Greatest: Johan Cruyff <b>2.45</b> ITV4 Nightscreen <b>3.00</b> Teleshopping</div> <div><b>E4</b></div> <div><b>12.15</b> Rude(ish) Tube Shorts <b>12.30</b> The Goldbergs <b>2.00</b> Young Sheldon <b>3.00</b> The Big Bang Theory <b>6.35</b> Film: The Day After Tomorrow (2004) <b>9.00</b> Krypton <b>10.00</b> Fear the Walking Dead <b>11.00</b> Gogglebox <b>12.10</b> The Big Bang Theory <b>1.05</b> Krypton <b>2.05</b> Fear the Walking Dead <b>3.00</b> Rude Tube <b>3.25</b> Hollyoaks</div> <div><b>Film4</b></div> <div><b>11.00</b> Shark Tale (2004) <b>12.55</b> Small Soldiers (1998) <b>3.15</b> Johnny English (2003) <b>5.10</b> Titanic (1997) <b>9.00</b> Fantastic Four (2015) Four scientists return from another dimension granted unusual powers, which they use to defend the Earth. Superhero adventure, starring Miles Teller. <b>10.55</b> Iron Man 2 (2010) <b>1.20</b> Yakuza Apocalypse (2015) <b>3.40</b> Close</div>



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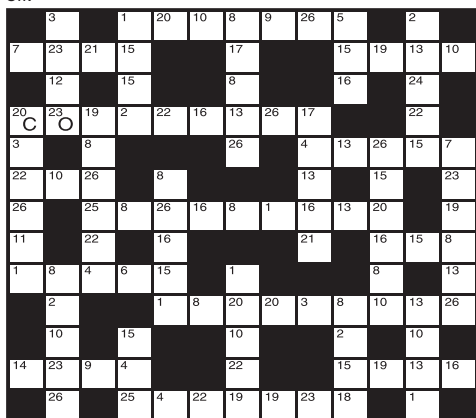


# BRAIN GYM

No.494

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
U	P	K	M	E	X	R	D	C	O	Z	J	H
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
W	Y	F	A	N	G	L	B	I	T	V	S	Q

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues – both fit the same grid.

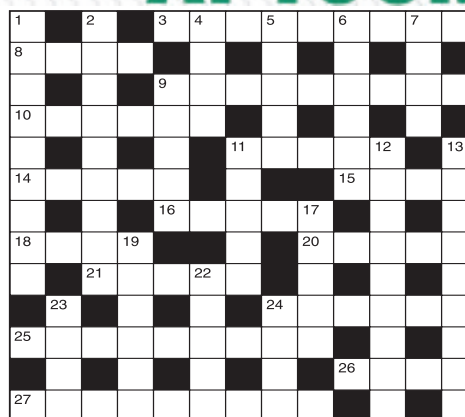
### Cryptic Clues:

#### Across

3. Medical containers houses (4-5)
8. Kind of stone for citrus fruit (4)
9. They make rings round ships' equipment (9)
10. There's no part for the benefactor (6)
11. See 23 Down
14. Dress up for a start to the day, we hear (5)
15. Collapse – minor operation after the doctor is seen (4)
16. Negotiate for something that gives particular pleasure (5)
18. Bird put in the crate alone (4)
20. Eastern potentate elected repeatedly (5)
- 21 & 12Dn. Moralists at the neighbouring hostelry? (5,9)
24. Shrubby plant needed before the Spanish produce a quantity of grain (6)
25. Warships to check credentials in escort arrangement (9)
26. See 24 Down
27. An assortment of roofs here on the edge of the sea (9)

#### Down

1. Help set an arrangement for trumpeters (9)
2. Mix me a lotion likely to excite sensitivity (9)
4. Club used for evening out (4)
5. Part of a flap elongated on a coat (5)
6. Used to being deposed? (6)
7. Late afternoon function unfinished (4)
9. Nobleman to be of some importance (5)
11. Missile associated with the sea (5)
12. See 21 Across
13. Weak, lacking prickles (9)
17. A gust will disturb the river (5)
19. Art Gallery window (6)
22. Wait cheerfully to find a letter within (5)
- 23 & 11Ac. What to do after retiring (2,2,5)
- 24 & 26Ac. Carry weapons with sleeves rolled up, one hears (4,4)



### Quick Clues:

#### Across

3. Extempore (9)
8. Pool (4)
9. Begin (9)
10. Excuse (6)
11. Guide (5)
14. Young eel (5)
15. Daybreak (4)
16. Distant (5)
18. Afresh (4)
20. Arouse (5)
21. Ire (5)
24. Conquered (6)
25. Competitor (9)
26. Grass (4)
27. Dining-room (9)

#### Down

1. Transient (9)
2. Consultation (9)
4. Market (4)
5. Correct (5)
6. Heeded (6)
7. Carry (4)
9. Musical drama (5)
11. Laziness (5)
12. Storyteller (9)
13. Compensate (9)
17. Less (5)
19. Squirm (6)
22. Dogma (5)
23. Prod (4)
24. Endure (4)

## Sudoku

	9		2			3		7
		8		3				6
6		7	5			8		
7				9		6		
	1		3		2		7	4
9		4		7				5
		2			9	5		8
5				2		4		
		9			4		2	

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

7	3	8	1	6	9	4	5	2
2	4	5	8	3	7	6	1	9
1	6	9	2	5	4	8	7	3
8	2	1	7	4	5	3	9	6
4	5	3	9	1	6	2	8	7
9	7	6	3	8	2	1	4	5
5	1	7	4	2	3	9	6	8
3	9	4	6	7	8	5	2	1
6	8	2	5	9	1	7	3	4

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:  
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Hymn; 3 Sergeant; 8 Gala; 9 Priority; 11 Air sea rescue; 13 Amazon; 14 Arrays; 17 Fit as a fiddle; 20 Ungainly; 21 Unit; 22 Detonate; 23 Hand.  
Down: 1 Hogmanay; 2 Malaria; 4 Errors; 5 Goods-train; 6 Adieu; 7 Toys; 10 Decoration; 12 Asserted; 15 Addenda; 16 Tablet; 18 Ingot; 19 Quid. QUICK - Across: 1 So-so; 3 Manifest; 8 Role; 9 Converse; 11 Idiosyncrasy; 13 Hermit; 14 Danger; 17 Faithfulness; 20 Pedantic; 21 Stun; 22 Depleted; 23 Type. Down: 1 Straight; 2 Soldier; 4 Amount; 5 Invariable; 6 Earns; 7 Tier; 10 Assistance; 12 Presence; 15 Greatly; 16 Office; 18 Add up; 19 Sped.

## Quiz

1. Whose novel Madame Bovary was published in 1857?
2. Which anaesthetic was discovered by Justus, Baron Von Liebig?
3. In which country was the Great Trek of 1836-37 made?
4. Of what is the Ivy League an eight-member group?
5. Which shrub has common and hedge varieties?
6. What do we call the mammal Oryctolagus cuniculus?
7. Which composer's most famous piece is Carnival of the Animals?
8. Who made up the Marx Brothers cinematic comedy team along with Groucho, Chico and Zeppo?
9. Of which tree is the ironbark a species?
10. Which best-selling British author and naturalist died in January 1995?

### Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Val Kilmer; 2 The Balkan Peninsula; 3 Jeremy Bentham; 4 Vulture; 5 The Stars and Stripes; 6 French; 7 Gases; 8 Odin; 9 Harpers and Queen; 10 Selhurst Park.

Niner: MANSFIELD

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

6452  
28352356  
9762115

gives a South American animal,  
gives a Latin American animal,  
gives an African animal.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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A spokesman said: "We have to offer, a carvery with a choice freshly roasted meats accompanied by a wide variety of fresh locally sourced vegetables."

"Alongside our carvery, we have an extensive menu with a range of foods to suit any and every palate. We are proud to offer exquisite beef steaks, also sourced locally, and are all cooked to perfection."

"Sumptuous breakfast, tasty lunch and sexy dinners. Stop by for our varied menu and enjoy our farm to table concept."

The pub is open daily between Sunday and Friday, from 12pm and 8pm and Saturday from 12noon to 8pm.

Breakfast is available on Friday, Saturday and Sunday between 8.30am and 11am.

The spokesman added: "Whether it's brunch, lunch or dinner you're joining us for, call to reserve your table on (01562) 850311."



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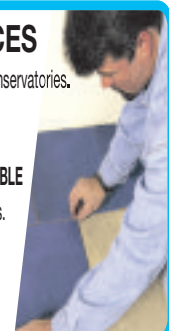
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# Local Specialists



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2. **Acceptance** The Company will only accept advertising on these standard terms and no other contract terms or conditions will apply other than those which are implied by statute and cannot lawfully be excluded. In particular the Company will not accept advertising on the basis of advertiser's terms and conditions.
3. **Content of Advertisements** All advertisements must be legal decent honest and truthful. Advertisements must comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes under the general supervision of the Advertising Standards Authority. Advertisements must comply with the requirements of all current legislation including but not limited to the following:- All advertisements must clearly differentiate between trade and private advertising as required by the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order 1977. Advertisements offering credit or hire facilities must comply with the Consumer Credit (Advertisement) Regulations 1980. All descriptions of goods must be accurate and in no way infringe the provisions of the Trademarks Descriptions Act 1968. Advertisements must not contain any material which is defamatory. You must have permission to use any material contained in your advertisement and must not infringe the copyright moral rights or any other right of any third party. The Company reserves the right to refuse to carry any advertisement or to require amendment of any advertisement in its absolute discretion.
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Colour/Features - By no later than 10 clear days before the date of publication  
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mind, body  
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what's on

## Markets

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3

Home &  
Services

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4

Pets &  
Animals

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than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any  
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5

Business &  
Farming

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6

Property

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7

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- **Technician (Late Shift)**  
Birmingham  
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- **Field Sales**  
Stourbridge  
£25,000 - £30,000pa
- **Slitting Setter/Operator**  
Brierley Hill  
£18,720pa
- **Toolmaker**  
West Bromwich  
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# 8

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FSH

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Excellent drive.

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#### BARGAIN

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rare 1400 model

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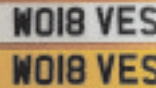
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## ClassifiedAds



# Cat has sleeker lines and more style than many other SUVs

By Carmel Stewart

Jaguar's entry into the SUV market a couple of years ago was inevitable if somewhat surprising, given that it puts itself in direct competition with the excellent Land Rover Discovery Sport but, clearly, it is a marque which is sure of its market.

And so it proved to be. The F-Pace swiftly earned its stripes by becoming the company's fastest selling global model with two in every five Jaguars sold being F-Paces. Adding the World Car Design of the Year in 2017 only increased the attraction.

And there is no doubt that it is a good-looking vehicle, with sleeker lines and more style than many another SUV. Top notch materials and build quality are really a given with Jaguar, making the entry-level price of £34,730 far less painful when you see what you are getting for your money.

Although designed and developed in the UK and, at present, built at Solihull, the F-Pace was clearly destined for global success. Before it even came onto the market it was tested in extreme climates of -40°C to +50°C to ensure it performs as well in the Arctic as it does in the Sahara. And it performs pretty well in the UK too.



There's plenty of head and leg room

Engine choices range from a 2.0litre, four-cylinder 163ps, turbocharged diesel linked to a six-speed manual gearbox to a 3.0litre, V6, supercharged 380ps petrol married to an eight-speed automatic transmission. The immense power of this latter unit will be pleasing to anyone thinking of making the switch from diesel but, as with all makes and sizes of engines, the hit in economy will have a serious impact on the wallet.

Jaguar's 3.0litre V6 300ps diesel returns an official average of 47.1mpg while the 2.0litre four-cylinder 300ps petrol returns 37mpg. No need for calculators, abacuses, fingers or even toes to see that the change will add to the expense of driving.

However, it doesn't detract from the enjoyment of driving the F-Pace AWD 2.0litre diesel – or any other diesel in the range. On startup it has that slight air of sluggishness which comes to the fore when setting out from a steep incline followed by a steep hill. By the time the terrain was back on an even keel, the engine was well into its stride and sailed along smoothly and silently. Pick-up on roundabouts and overtakes was immediate and reassuring.

The ride is composed with suspension which manages to stay on the comfort side of the fine line between that and firm. The addition of torque vectoring on the higher trims, whereby minuscule braking is applied inside the front and rear wheels on cornering, further aids the unruffled composure of the F-Pace.

Occupants have a plush leather interior to enjoy, more than enough leg and head room, with plenty of cubby holes and storage spaces dotted around.

Trim levels number four – Prestige, Portfolio, R-Sport and S. Entry-level spec includes a push button start, eight-inch touch screen, digital instrument cluster, hill start assist, cruise control with speed limiter, Bluetooth, DAB radio, navigation system, rain-sensing wipers, heated front seats, front and rear fog lights and 18-inch alloys.

A step-up to Portfolio adds an extra inch to the wheel size, a fixed panoramic sunroof, 10-way power front seats and a rear-view camera among other things. Prices start at £39,730.

Prestige and R-Sport come with a choice of seven engine/transmission combinations. Portfolio adds the mighty 3.0litre V6 300ps diesel to the mix while the top-notch S model is exclusively powered by that same 3.0litre V6 plus the 380ps 3.0litre V6 supercharged petrol engine but, with a price tag of £53,365, deep pockets are needed for this version.



It is certainly a good-looking vehicle

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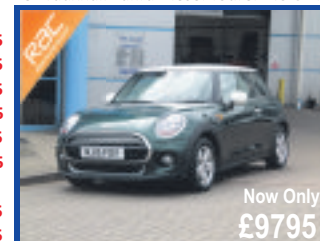
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# Nexo makes us wish future was here

By Tom Wiltshire

**There's a certain deadlock between car manufacturers and governments at the moment regarding the supposed fuel of the future, hydrogen.**

While plenty of manufacturers are poised to release fuel-cell vehicles, they're reluctant to do so with no real refuelling infrastructure in place – and governments are unlikely to invest in hydrogen stations with so few cars around to use them. It's fallen to Hyundai to plough forward with the Nexo – the successor to its ix35 Fuel Cell and soon to be the Toyota Mirai's only hydrogen-powered rival in the UK.

The Nexo is all new, from its futuristic powertrain to the concept car-esque styling. While the ix35 Fuel Cell was based on the existing ix35 SUV, the Nexo is its own model.

Hyundai aims to sell a few thousand Nexos a year in markets across the world, hopefully spurring on the development of a hydrogen infrastructure and providing a long-distance, quick-refuelling alternative to pure-electric vehicles.

It debuts some key new tech for Hyundai, including a new 12.3-inch infotainment display, driver-assistance features such as a blind-spot view monitor and lane-follow assist.

Under the hood sits a hydrogen fuel cell stack, which takes its juice from three hydrogen tanks mounted fore and aft of the rear axle. There's an electric motor and small battery pack too, but for most of the time the car is driven by the fuel cell. There are a number of benefits to this. First of all there's refuelling, which takes just a few minutes compared with the several hours you'll wait for an electric car to charge. A full-tank Nexo is capable of a theoretical 497 miles,



Refuelling takes just a few minutes

too – more than any EV currently available. The only emission from the Nexo is water, and particulate filters mean the car purifies the air around it as it drives.

The Nexo's peak output is 161bhp, delivered in the typical electric car way. That is to say, it's torquey, quick and smooth off the line, but power soon tails off and the Nexo isn't the most responsive car on the motorway.

The Nexo is a heavy car and that weight is noticeable in the corners, where it isn't exactly a sports car. That's no real criticism, as buyers won't be looking for groundbreaking handling prowess, but they might be disappointed by a slightly sharp-edged ride over rougher surfaces.

It's a refined cruiser, though, with some clever aerodynamic touches on the slippery body reducing wind noise. It's also a tech-fest, with Hyundai's semi-autonomous systems making life just that little bit easier. Lane-follow assist – a combination of radar-guided cruise control and lane-keeping functions – works



The Nexo is all new, from its futuristic powertrain to the concept car-esque styling

brilliantly, keeping the car steadier than most rival systems. There's also an innovative blind spot monitoring system, which displays a camera feed of the car's blind spot in the instrument cluster when you indicate. It will also park itself while you're outside it.

The Hyundai Nexo looks every bit the futuristic SUV and remains remarkably true to its concept. The glamorous touches don't seem contrived or compromised, though, and the result is a slick-looking crossover with some really interesting design details.

The full-width LED light bar across the front gives an eye-catching signature, especially in the dark, while glittery tail lights give a similar effect at the rear. The streamlined alloy wheels

are less successful and look a little cheap, but the sides of the car are brought back up to par with sleek hidden door handles.

Overall, the effect is close enough to a standard crossover that it won't alienate buyers who don't like to stand out, but there's enough visual interest to satisfy most.

This is one of the most premium Hyundai interiors yet, and there's a very 'Lexus' feel to the high-set centre console. However, it's dotted with a rash of cheap-feeling buttons and decked out in the sort of silver plastic you'd find on an early 2000s Mercedes SLK. Very appealing to the North American market; less so to Europeans.

There's plenty of room on offer, though, with

a 461-litre boot, decent rear legroom and good storage for oddments in and around the cabin.

What can't be argued with is the tech on offer in the Nexo. There's a digital instrument display and widescreen infotainment unit that works rather well, the aforementioned safety and driver aids, climate control, heated and cooled seats, LED lights front and rear and a powered tailgate.

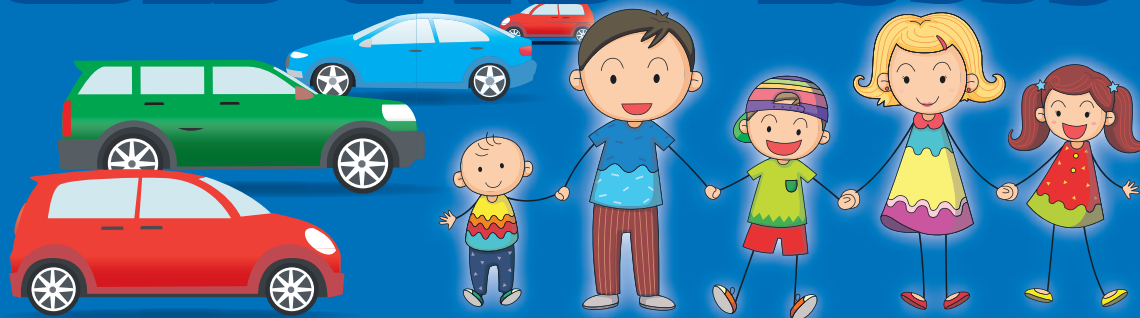
However, you'd expect all this from such an expensive car. Hydrogen tech is in its infancy and as such can't be offered at the same price as electric rivals. We'd expect to see the Hyundai to be priced near £60,000, dipping to around £55,000 when the government's electric car grant is taken into account.

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The all-conquering Walsall side with Archer, centre, front row, as captain



A Walsall team picture from 1976. Archer is on the far right end of the front row

# Archer raises his bat to a half-century of service

## SPORTING FEATURE

By Nick Elwell

*It was very enjoyable to play in a very good side and to be a major cog in it, both as captain and as a player.*

**NICK ARCHER** celebrated countless half-centuries during his playing days – but it's doubtful any gave him as much pride as his latest one.

The bat, pads and gloves may have been discarded a few years ago but that hasn't stopped the former Walsall and Staffordshire batsman chalking up another milestone.

Archer, 62, is currently enjoying his 50th season of Birmingham League cricket as player and administrator.

On the field, he enjoyed a stunning period of success with the all-conquering Walsall side of the 80s and 90s. He won the Birmingham League title nine times skipping the side for five of those and a National Knockout success at Lord's in 1996.

Meanwhile Staffordshire, under the guidance of Archer, were the strongest Minor County side in the country at that time.

And when he decided to end his playing days, he took the lead role for the league by becoming general manager in 1999. It's a position he still fills today as the league gets set for the biggest shake-up in club cricket in 20 years.

### Shake-up

It all began for Archer as a 13-year-old when he made his debut for Walsall's second team in 1969. But, at the time, cricket wasn't his number one sport, rugby was – and he wasn't bad at that either!

"I first played in 1969, in the second XI when I was 13 against Moseley. I batted number 10 and I got nought not out," recalls Archer. "I can't remember the exact circumstances why I played, but I started to play more regularly the following year."

"But I only ever played half-seasons until I was 18 because I went to Queen Mary's School in Walsall and they scheduled fixtures on a Saturday afternoon. I played in the first team for the first time in 1971. Then I played a few more in 1972 when we won the league."

The following year saw Archer play regularly for the first team. His promise earned him a call for Staffordshire and also attracted the attention of the first class counties. But the oval ball still came out on top, and there were no thoughts of becoming a

professional cricketer. "In 1975 I went to Loughborough University. I also played rugby for them, so that also curtailed my cricket a bit," he added. "In 1974, I didn't play at all because I was picked to go on tour with the England under-19 rugby team."

"That was a bit of a watershed year for me cricket wise, because at that time I'd had invitations to play for a couple of county second XIs – Derbyshire and Warwickshire – but I couldn't fulfil them in. Cricket was very much a second sport, really, until the early 80s."

As a fly-half or full-back he played for Moseley who, with the game an amateur sport, played in the country's top division.

"Looking back, cricket wise, and at what I eventually did with Minor Counties and Walsall, I have no regrets whatsoever."

Archer also enjoyed a successful career outside of cricket, in advertising and marketing, that eventually saw him run David Archer Associates, a company set up by his father. And while business was going well, the cricket was going even better as Walsall ruled the roost locally and Staffordshire nationally. "I won the title nine times as a player and I was skipper for five of those," he said.

"The 90s was a big era of success. We won the title in 92, 94, 96, 99 and also beat Chorley in the National KO at Lord's in 96. It was very enjoyable at the time to play in a very good side and to be a major cog in it, both as captain and as a player. It was a very, very strong side and the fact that we won National Knock-out in 1996 while our first, second and third teams all won their leagues, we had a very reasonable claim

to be the strongest club in the country at that time."

Archer played a key role as he accumulated nearly 11,000 top flight Birmingham League runs – a Walsall record. He claimed a unique double in 1989 as he finished top of the league and Minor Counties batting averages.

Not surprisingly, the appearances at the home of cricket are highlights – he also led Staffordshire out there in 91, 92 and 93, missing out on three successive Minor County Championship and KO doubles when they lost to Devon in 92.

But he has played against some of the world's best down the years, and two encounters with West Indies fast bowlers Sylvester Clarke and Malcolm Marshall while on duty with Staffs stand out.

"I opened with Steve Dean for Staffs against Surrey. Deany used to run to the wicket to make sure he took the first ball and I was quite happy to let him do it with Clarke bowling."

### Opening

"We ran a three off the first ball. Clarke's opening spell was six overs and I faced five overs and five balls of it! I ended up scoring 45 as a makeshift opener with Dickie Bird umpiring, which was an experience in itself."

Taking the various Test match players he crossed swords with out of the equation, three players stand out for Archer during his playing days.

"The two outstanding batters for me were Steve Dean and Roy Virgin at Walsall," he adds. "Roy came to Walsall straight from county cricket and he was a real gnarled ex-pro. He taught more about batting than anyone else."

"Ability wise, Deany was as good a batsman as I have ever played with and Keith Arnold was the best bowler I played with. They played in same team for nine to 10 years which was the bedrock of our success."

Archer decided to call time on his league career when the league came calling with the offer of a general manager role. He helped smooth the league's expansion that saw promotion and relegation introduced and eventually saw it go from one division to four. And now he is ready to oversee another revamp that will see the league cut to two divisions next season.



Nick Archer with a framed picture of the 1976 team



Archer is handed a commemorative bat after a Lord's win over Chorley

## Trampolinists spring into action for contest

THE 2018 Trampoline, Tumbling & DMT British Championships springs into action at Arena Birmingham next month.

Spectators can witness the return of history-making Olympic silver medal trampolinist Bryony Page on home soil, as she takes on stiff competition from world team bronze medallists Laura Gallagher and Kat Driscoll. Nathan Bailey and Luke Strong will go head-to-head for the men's senior trampoline crown, while disability trampoline gymnasts will also perform exhilarating routines in a bid for medals.

The senior tumbling teams will be led by 2018 European champion Lucie Colebeck, and her team-mates Yasmin Taite, Kristof Willerton, Greg Townley and Elliott Browne.

DMT gymnasts in action include newly-crowned Junior European team champions and individual senior gold medallist Kirsty Way.

The competition takes place on September 22 and 23. Tickets are on sale now via [www.theticketfactory.com](http://www.theticketfactory.com) or by calling 0844 33 88 222.

## Soap stars line up for charity match

CELEBRITIES from some of the nation's most popular soap operas will lace up their boots for a charity football match in Walsall.

Stars from Emmerdale, Hollyoaks and Coronation Street will line up on Sunday at Rushall Olympic against The Midcounties Co-operative, which organised the event.

Soap stars taking part include Ashley Taylor-Dawson and Jacob Roberts, better known as Darren Osborne and Damon Kinsella from Hollyoaks, Alan Halsall who plays Tyrone Dobbs in Coronation Street, and Anthony Quinlan, aka Pete Barton in Emmerdale. Fans can meet and greet the stars at the end.

Money raised will go towards local charities including sexual exploitation prevention charity Street Teams, Alzheimer's support groups ALZ Café and Monthly Alzheimer's Support Evenings, as well as blind and sight loss support centre, Beacon Vision. Kick off is 2pm and entry is £8 adults, £5 children with family discounts available. Details and tickets on 07508 398092.

## Trio net their place in national tournament

THREE Wolverhampton athletes have netted a call-up for the Severn Stars squad at the School Games at netball.

The School Games are a national multi-sport event for the UK's most talented school-age athletes and take place at Loughborough University from August 30 to September 2.

All three girls are 15 and attend Wolverhampton Girls High. They are twins sisters Halee and Rudee Robinson, who play for Yendys Netball Club, and team-mate Lucy Toor, who also represents Wasps Netball Club.

More than 1,400 athletes will compete across 11 sports, five of which disability disciplines. The Wolverhampton trio will follow in the footsteps of some of Britain's biggest sporting stars who have competed at the event before going on to senior international success.

Previous competitors include Paralympic champions Hannah Cockcroft, Ellie Simmonds and Jonnie Peacock, Olympic champion Adam Peaty, heptathlete Katarina Johnson-Thompson and sprinter Adam Gemili.





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## Tivi are hot on the heels of Rangers

BLACK Country Rangers and Tividale have both started the West Midlands Premier season in dominant fashion.

Rangers are leading the way at this early stage following four victories from as many games – the latest being a 3-1 triumph at Haughmond on Saturday.

Tivi are hot on their heels after a 7-1 demolition of Bilston Town made it three from three.

Jake Healy, Luke Wilson and Liam Hughes got the goals for Rangers as they came out on top in Shropshire.

Boss Wayne Spicer said: "It was a good win. We had to be firing on all cylinders to get something against Haughmond, and they were. It's a great start."

Tividale may have blitzed Bilston, but Scott Hamilton's charges took the lead at Queen Street – through skipper Matt Barnett five minutes in.

Dave King's men drew level through Darragh Bustin. Demetri Brown then put them ahead. Bustin got his second before half-time, and Brown made it 4-1, substitute Rion Francis-Mills grabbed a brace, either side of Bustin completing his hat-trick from the penalty spot.

Third-bottom Dudley Town drew 2-2 with second-bottom Shifnal Town, while Dudley Sports were victorious, 4-2 at Cradley Town. Smethwick drew 1-1 with Bewdley Town.

In the West Midlands Division One, Tipton Town won a nine-goal thriller, 6-3 at Sikh Hunters.

Team Dudley drew 2-2 with Allscott and Gornal Athletic lost 2-0 to Droitwich Spa.

## Broadhurst heads home late winner for the Glassboys

Stourbridge 2 Rushden & Diamonds 1  
LONG-SERVING Leon Broadhurst bagged a last-minute winner as Stourbridge snapped up maximum points against an impressive Rushden side.

Broadhurst slotted home from close range after Rushden had failed to clear from a free-kick.

That was after the Glassboys had gifted Rushden the opening goal on 10 minutes in this Evo-Stik Central Premier clash.

Defender Paul McCone completely mis-hit an attempted back-pass allowing John Dean to intercept and round Glassboys goalkeeper James Wren to net.

Stourbridge levelled on the half hour when Mills again cut inside Westwood and fired into a crowded goalmouth. Everyone missed the ball as it flew into the far corner.

The winner arrived on 90 minutes after Robbie Thompson-Brown was needlessly brought down by Jack Ashton. Thompson-Brown floated the ball to the far post where it was headed back across goal by substitute Stuart Pierpoint for Broadhurst to pounce and turn home.

## Valiant effort by young pair in regatta

YOUNGSTERS Ben Nolan and Sophie Glazzard made history by becoming the first Dudley Rowing Club members to enter a Regatta. In fact the club itself is new to the regatta scene.

The pair entered the junior 15 single sculls at Warwick Regatta on Saturday.

Nolan was very unlucky in the draw as he was up against a youngster from Derby Rowing Club who had already won a silver medal at the junior rowing championships. Nolan fought very hard in his heat but lost by four lengths, but it was a very

valiant effort. Glazzard, a young lady with a lot of determination was drawn against a sculler from Stratford-on-Avon.

After a very fast start she found herself in the lead for the first 200m of the 500m course, but "caught a crab" – her oar got stuck in the water.

Having lost the lead, she fought back to lose by just three lengths.

The racing commentator explained to the crowd how small Dudley Rowing Club is and the tiny stretch of water they have on the Reservoir

in Netherton to train on. Bridgnorth Rowing Club are helping the local club by transporting their own boats to regattas for the youngsters to use, as Dudley Rowing Club have no trailer facilities.

Two Midlands clubs have given them the opportunity to have an outing with them.

Both youngsters are now eagerly looking forward to entering Worcester Autumn Regatta on September 9. Coach Colin is also teaming up with Stan Butler the Bridgnorth Rowing Club secretary in the double sculls event.

# HALES FACING VITAL WEEKEND

## A MISFIRING Halesowen went down by 97 runs to Leamington in the Birmingham League.

Visiting batsmen William Masinghe and veteran Rob Williams put on 105 for the fourth wicket at Seth Somers Park. Masinghe hit 107 and Williams 61 to take their side to 264-5.

Mashinghe held the innings together while Williams' contribution was far more explosive, striking seven fours and three sixes in 42 balls.

After Ed Kilbee (55) was dismissed at 123-5, Halesowen crumbled to 167 all out, in 40 overs, off-spinners Nabeel Asghar (4-22) and Perry Derrick (3-48) doing the damage.

Skipper Alexei Kervezee said: "We had two moments in the game where we have not clicked, the first when Rob Williams came in and blasted away what would have been a gettable total to one which was above par and then when we batted we failed to capitalise on a sound opening stand.

### Critical

"We are still well in the race and the bank holiday will be critical to our end of season destiny."

After an easy eight-wicket victory against Oswestry for Kidderminster, three wins from their last five games, will guarantee promotion to the Premier Division, at the first attempt, while Shifnal boosted their chances of joining them with a seven-wicket victory at Brockhampton.

In other matches the second, third and fourth teams all lost in what was a miserable weekend for the club but with four weekends of cricket remaining there is still plenty for the teams to play.

The first XI visit Shifnal on Saturday, noon start and travel to Brockhampton on Monday.

The seconds are at Seth Somers Park on Monday to take on Walsall seconds and on Monday to play Astwood Bank, both start at 12.30pm.

The thirds take on West Malvern on Saturday at Earls High, 1pm start, while the fourths make the return journey to take on West Malvern Second XI.

## Faye jumps for joy with title



Faye Adams on her way to victory on Demograaf

HALESOWEN'S Faye Adams flew to victory with her horse Demograaf at the British Showjumping National Championships.

A day after winning the National Speed Horse Final, the 20-year-old took the National 1.30m Open Championship title.

As one of 20 riders in the jump-off, Adams produced one of only six double clear rounds in a time of 38.84 seconds, beating the time set by second-placed rider Caron Nicol with 39.66 seconds.

Adams said 10-year-old bay gelding Demograaf, whom she has had for about a year: "He's just been incredible here; he has answered every question and I couldn't have asked for anything better."



Faye is handed her prize

## Poppies' day as win takes hosts to top

Kettering Town 2 Halesowen Town 0  
KETTERING climbed to the top of the Premier Division Central table with a goal in each half at Latimer Park.

Yeltz made a decent start in their first competitive game against Kettering for almost 70 years. James Roberts fired over from a 10th minute corner after Asa Charlton headed back from the far post and Lee Hughes went close. Roberts then won the ball to fire just wide from the edge of the penalty area after 23 minutes. Kettering's Lathaniel Rowe-Turner fired just wide and Michael Richens hit over bar.

But the hosts settled and took the lead six minutes before half-time through Marcus Kelly from the left after a neat pass from Lindon Meikle on a counter-attack from Halesowen's free-kick at the other end.

Chances on goal remained few in the second period although Halesowen came near to equalising after 65 minutes when a long clearance from goalkeeper Dan Platt was helped on by Hughes to Roberts, but his effort was tipped onto the bar by home goalkeeper Paul White.

But Kettering generally had the better of the second period and hit a couple of half chances off target.

Substitute Brett Solkhorn doubled the Poppies lead to confirm their 100 per cent record in the third minute of injury time.

Yeltz are at home to Biggleswade on Saturday. Next Tuesday night is the No9 Derby at Amblecote.

## Neal struggles in race at Rockingham

BLACK Country racer Matt Neal suffered a tough weekend but came away with vital British Touring Car Championship Points at Rockingham.

The Stourbridge racer found himself on the back foot going into race day after the team was forced to change the engine on his car ahead of qualifying.

Delayed by an incident at the start, Neal fought hard in race one to finish in 18th spot and for races two and three had to settle for 14th and 15th place finishes.

Neal now sits in fifth place in the drivers' championship, 12 points off the top three.

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